



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-213
Friday
2 November 1990

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-213

CONTENTS

2 November 1990

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

IATA Rejects Kuwaiti Appeal on Iraqi Airways [INA]	1
Arab League Begins Official Work in Cairo 1 Nov	1
Al-As'ad Issues Statement [Cairo Radio]	1
Al-As'ad Receives 'Abd-al-Majid [MENA]	1
Envoys Present Credentials [MENA]	2

Islamic Affairs

Denktas Addresses Islamic Meeting on Cyprus, Gulf [Bayrak Radio]	2
--	---

Palestinian Affairs

FRC Denounces U.S. Decision on Extradition [AFP]	2
Search for Political Solution to Gulf 'Intensive' [TAP]	2
'Arafat Meets French Delegation, Praises Stand [Sanaa VOP]	3
'Abd-Rabbuh Notes Essential Shortages in Kuwait [Amman AL-RAY 2 Nov]	3
Call for UN Protection of Palestinians Urged [Baghdad VOP]	3
Alleged Plan To Build 'Third Temple' Viewed [Sanaa VOP]	4
PFLP-GC Acknowledges Three Wounded in Raid [Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]	4
Former Aide Interviewed on Sabri Al-Banna [Vienna TV]	4
Correction to Radio Defends Palestinian Position	5

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Al-Jihad Group Denies Role in Assassination [AFP]	6
Arrests Made Regarding Bani Suwayf Incident [MENA]	6
Saudi Arabia Reinforcements Said Imminent [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 30 Oct]	6
Oil Minister Expects \$3 Billion in Oil Revenues [AL-AKHBAR 23 Oct]	6

Libya

JANA Comments on Expulsion of PLF	7
Egyptian Paper Interviews Al-Qadhafi [MENA]	7

Mauritania

President Taya Receives Malian Envoy, Message [Nouakchott Radio]	8
--	---

Morocco

Polisario Criticizes Spanish Arms Sales [Madrid DIARIO 16 25 Oct]	8
Joint Cease-Fire Proposal [Madrid DIARIO 30 Oct]	8
Laraki Critical of 'Defamation' by France [MAP]	9
UK's Waldegrave Ends Visit 1 Nov [MAP]	9

Sudan

Government Satisfied With Syrian Position on Gulf	[SUNA]	9
Egypt Cancels Scholarships for Sudanese Students	[Voice of Sudan]	10
RCC Member Issues Statement on Ties With Chad	[SUNA]	10

Tunisia

Ministry Issues Statement on Arab League Move	[Tunis Radio]	10
Khouini Sworn In as Maghreb Affairs Secretary	[Tunis Radio]	10

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Minister Cites 'New Page' in Ties With Tehran	[WAKH]	11
---	--------	----

Kuwait

Amir Said To Seek Talks With Iraq on Crisis	[AKHBAR AL-USBU 3 Nov]	11
Resistance Statement Details Iraqi Brutality	[AL-RIYAD 25 Oct]	11
Ministry Accuses Iraq of Printing False Documents	[Riyadh Radio]	13
Premier Meets With Sudanese, Ethiopian Officials	[KUNA]	13
Oil Minister Comments on Oil Losses, Damages	[MENA]	13
Red Cross To Resume Efforts To Enter Nation	[KUNA]	13

Oman

King Husayn Arrives in Muscat 31 Oct	[Amman Radio]	14
Discusses Gulf With Sultan	[Amman Radio]	14

Saudi Arabia

French Helicopters, Tanks, Troops Arrive	[AFP]	14
--	-------	----

United Arab Emirates

Senegal's Minister Arrives; Calls For Withdrawal	[WAKH]	14
Delivers Message to Zayid	[Abu Dhabi Radio]	15
Iraqi Pullout 'Only Clear Solution' to Crisis	[WAKH]	15

Yemen

Council Issues Decrees on BP Oil Agreements		15
No. 17	[Sanaa Radio]	15
No. 18	[Sanaa Radio]	16
No. 19	[Sanaa Radio]	16
Speaker Criticizes 'Hostile Foreign Media'	[Sanaa Radio]	16

IRAQ

Four U.S. Citizens Allowed To Leave Baghdad	[INA]	18
Salih Says Franco-USSR Pledge Would Free Hostages	[Paris LE FIGARO 1 Nov]	18
Saddam To Free Injured British Hostage	[London PRESS ASSOCIATION]	18
Jasim Says Irish Free When Contracts Expire	[AFP]	18
Assembly To Discuss Releasing Bulgarians	[INA]	19
Reaction to U.S, UK Comments on Holiday Visits		19
Minister 'Amazed' by Statements	[INA]	19
West Has 'Fear of Truth'	[INA]	19
UK Comments Scorned	[Baghdad Radio]	19
Swiss Medical Supplies Arrive in Baghdad	[INA]	19

Major Explosion Reported at Military Base [Riyadh TV]	20
Paper Says State Will 'Never Submit to Threats' [INA]	20
Editorial Rules Out Limited Warfare [INA]	20
Paper Says State Prepared To 'Meet the Enemies' [INA]	21
Minister Promises To Pay Departed Arab Workers [INA]	21
Saddam Discusses Issues With Senior Officials [INA]	22
Arab Workers Arrive in Baghdad for Conference [INA]	22
Ramadan Addresses Conference [INA]	22
DFLP's 'Abd-Rabbuh Voices Support, Departs [INA]	23
Ramadan Meets Arab Research Official [INA]	23
Saddam Congratulates Algeria on National Day [INA]	23
Comparison of Tokyo TV Interview With Saddam [INA]	24

ISRAEL

Levi Returns From Paris, Discusses Meetings [Jerusalem TV]	25
Arens on Gulf Crisis, Dialogue With Palestinians [AL HAMISHMAR 2 Nov]	25
Milo Announces Plans To Restructure Police [THE JERUSALEM POST 2 Nov]	25
UN Recommendation on Territories Rejected [DAVAR 2 Nov]	26
Alignment Faction Submits No-Confidence Motion [Jerusalem TV]	26
Commentator Notes Seriousness of Shamir Warnings [HA'ARETZ 2 Nov]	27
Commentary Analyzes Baker's Bypass of Jerusalem [HA'ARETZ 2 Nov]	27
U.S., Egyptian Acts Viewed as Interference [AL HAMISHMAR 2 Nov]	28
Rishon Leziyyon Man Stabbed; Assailant Flees [Tel Aviv Radio]	28
Further Reportage on Uprising Incidents	29
30, 31 Oct [HADASHOT, etc.]	29
31 Oct [THE JERUSALEM POST, etc.]	29
1 Nov [THE JERUSALEM POST, etc.]	30

JORDAN

Information Minister Urges Arab Solution in Gulf [THE STAR 1-7 Nov]	31
Minister Seeks Talks on Damascus-Cairo Bus Line [AL-RAY 2 Nov]	32
UN Committee Head Deplores Ship Interceptions [JORDAN TIMES 1-2 Nov]	32
Air Freight Official Denies 'Blacklist' Rumors [JORDAN TIMES 1-2 Nov]	33
Paper on Possible Syrian Withdrawal From Gulf [AKHBAR AL-USBU' 3 Nov]	33

LEBANON

Three UK Hostages Expected To Be Released [WAKH]	34
Implementation of Greater Beirut Plan Continues	34
Boundaries Defined; Army Deploys [Beirut Radio]	34
Birri on Authority Over South [Beirut Radio]	34
Birri on Greater Beirut, Gulf [Beirut Radio]	34
Hizballah Leader Comments [VOL]	34
Northerners Voice Reservations [Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon]	34
Army Ordered To Implement Security Measures [Voice of the People]	35
Junblatt on Government Reshuffle, Al-Ta'if Accord [VOM]	35
Islamic Resistance Releases 10 Amal Detainees [Voice of the Oppressed]	35
Ibrahimi on Promised Moroccan, Egyptian Assistance [VOM]	36
New Soviet Ambassador Ilchev Arrives in Beirut [VOL]	36
Commentary Demands Distinction Between Militias [Voice of the Oppressed]	36
Amal-Israeli Confrontation in South Reported [Beirut Radio]	37
Israeli Raid Kills Palestinians, Lebanese [Beirut Radio]	37
Lahd Militia Vehicle Destroyed, Passengers Killed [VOM]	37

SYRIA

Nation Reportedly To Send More Troops to Gulf [Belgrade Radio]	38
'Blatant Contradiction' Seen in U.S. Policy [AL-BATH 29 Oct]	38
Columnist Warns Arabs of U.S. Support for Israel [TISHRIN 29 Oct]	38

Paper Sees Zionist Influence in French Stance	[TISHRIN 28 Oct]	39
Commentary Alleges French 'Hostility' to Arabs	[Damascus Radio]	39
Kuwait Annexation Will 'Obstruct' Arab Solution	[Damascus Radio]	40
Jordan Criticized for Blocking Traffic to Cairo	[SANA]	40

SOUTH ASIA

Bangladesh

Dhaka Implements Curfew After Clashes		41
Provisions Detailed	[Dhaka Radio]	41
Moslem Worshippers, Police Clash	[AFP]	41
Ershad Addresses Rally	[Dhaka Radio]	41

India

Hindus Move on Mosque; 12 Die in Uttar Pradesh	[Delhi Radio]	42
Curfew-Bound Cities Reported Peaceful	[Delhi Radio]	42
Congress-I Supports Janata Dal Ministry in Gujarat	[Delhi Radio]	42
Radio, Television Workers Hold Sit-In Strike	[Delhi Radio]	43

Iran

London Embassy Reopens After 18-Month Closure	[London PRESS ASSOCIATION]	43
Paper on 'Outstanding Problems' in Ties With UK	[TEHRAN TIMES 22 Oct]	43
UN Delegation Denies Report on War Damages	[IRNA]	44
ICO Secretary General Algaibid Visits Tehran		44
Arrives 31 October	[Tehran Radio]	44
Meets Finance Minister	[IRNA]	44
Meets Velayati	[Tehran TV]	45
Bahraini Minister Departs; Velayati Comments	[Tehran TV]	45
Khomeini, Nigerian Minister Lament Late Imam	[Tehran Radio]	45
Velayati Meets Japanese Special Envoy Matsunaga	[Tokyo KYODO]	45
Afghan Mujahidin Leader Arrives in Tehran	[Tehran Radio]	46
Paper on Need for Unity Among Afghan Mujahidin	[TEHRAN TIMES 14 Oct]	46
Pakistani Envoy Explains Latest Developments	[Tehran Radio]	46
Iraqi Action Said Detrimental to Interests	[IRNA]	47
Paper on U.S. Need for Soviet 'Consent' in Gulf	[IRNA]	47
Further Reaction Regarding Majles Issue		47
Paper Condemns Factionalism	[KEYHAN H/VAT 17 Oct]	47
TEHRAN TIMES on Factionalism	[25 Oct]	48
Qom Theologians Support Khamene'i	[Tehran Radio]	48
Yazdi Praises Khamene'i Leadership	[Tehran TV]	49
*Paper Reports Bayat's Accusation	[London KEYHAN 18 Oct]	49
Relatives Appeal for Release of Hostages	[IRNA]	50
Another 400 POW's in Iraq To Be Released	[Tehran Radio]	50
Editorial Considers POW Exchange Problems	[TEHRAN TIMES 24 Oct]	50
Paper Comments on Resumption of Ties With Iraq	[TEHRAN TIMES 17 Oct]	50
Papers Differ on Ties With Saudi Arabia	[IRNA]	51
*Relations With Saudi Arabia Improve	[London KEYHAN 11 Oct]	51
TEHRAN TIMES Urges 'Demolition' of Israel	[16 Oct]	52
*Pasdaran Commander Killed in Kordestan	[London KEYHAN 18 Oct]	52
Commentary Reviews Results of Antidrug Measures	[Tehran Radio]	53
*State-Owned Companies To Be Dissolved	[London KEYHAN 11 Oct]	53
*Import of Vehicles, Foodstuff From Germany Up	[London KEYHAN 11 Oct]	54
Joint Trade Agreement With Bulgaria Signed	[Tehran Radio]	54
Radio, TV Cooperation Accord Signed With Japan	[Tehran Radio]	54
*Paper on LE MONDE Report on Experts Election	[London KEYHAN 18 Oct]	54
*IRI, Iraq Exchange Diplomats	[London KEYHAN 18 Oct]	55
*Regime Admits Voters Shunned Experts' Election	[London KEYHAN 18 Oct]	56
*Paper on Economic Agreements With France	[London KEYHAN 18 Oct]	56

*Foreign Investors Lured by Guarantees [London KEYHAN 18 Oct]	57
*Government To Establish Foreign Exchange Rates [London KEYHAN 18 Oct]	58
*Heavy Rainfall Reported in Quake-Stricken Areas [London KEYHAN 18 Oct]	58
*Draft To Dismiss Liberals From Positions Rejected [London KEYHAN 18 Oct]	58
*Publication of New Paper Reported [London KEYHAN 18 Oct]	59
*Paper on Musavi-Ardabili's Hospitalization [London KEYHAN 18 Oct]	59

Nepal & Bhutan

Public Sector Joins in Pro-Democracy Protest [AFP]	59
--	----

Pakistan

Sharif Elected Leader of IDA Party [Islamabad Radio]	60
Promises Fair Treatment [THE MUSLIM 2 Nov]	60
Court Frees Zardari To Sit in Parliament [AFP]	60
Official Says Cash Available for Debt Payment [DAWN 1 Nov]	61
Ejazul Haq Wants PPP Included in Government [DAWN 31 Oct]	61
Officials Criticize India Over Mosque Desecration	62
Prime Minister [Islamabad Radio]	62
Foreign Minister [Islamabad Radio]	62
President Hailed for Fair, Free Elections [Islamabad Radio]	62
Editorial Ponders Future of Relations With U.S. [THE NATION 2 Nov]	62

Sri Lanka

Communique Lists Northern Operations Against LTTE [Colombo International]	62
LTTE Claims Army Camp Stormed, 10 Killed [AFP]	63
Wijeratne Discusses Mannar Anti-LTTE Operations [Colombo International]	63

Inter-Arab Affairs

IATA Rejects Kuwaiti Appeal on Iraqi Airways

JN3110210290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2012 GMT
31 Oct 90

[Text] Geneva, 31 Oct (INA)—The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has rejected the proposal by the representative of Al Sabah to suspend the membership of Iraqi Airways in the Association.

The 46th annual IATA conference which ended here today approved the memorandum submitted by Iraqi Airways rebutting all the claims contained in the memorandum submitted by the representative of Al Sabah.

The Iraqi Airways memorandum affirmed that Iraq has not impounded any plane belonging to any other airline, with the exception of one plane belonging to British Airways after the British authorities had impounded engines belonging to Iraqi Airways which were undergoing maintenance at the British company's workshops. The memorandum notes that the release of the British plane depends on the return of the Iraqi engines.

The memorandum affirmed that Iraq had allowed three civilian planes belonging to Middle East Airlines, Trans-Mediterranean Airways, and Royal Air Maroc to leave Iraq.

The memorandum explained that Iraq had allowed a very large number of foreign nationals who are on its territory, and all the children, women, elderly, and ill, as well as all the French nationals, to leave Iraq if they so wish, reminding the conference that it must refrain from discussion of any political issues that are contained in any working paper submitted to the association by any airline company, and to restrict its discussions to issues which deal with air transportation only.

Arab League Begins Official Work in Cairo 1 Nov

Al-As'ad Issues Statement

NC011111090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1000 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] The Arab League began its official work at its permanent headquarters in Cairo today.

Arab League Acting Secretary General As'ad al-As'ad issued a statement on the occasion. He said: The General Secretariat today begins its work at the Arab League's permanent headquarters in Cairo in implementation of the League Council's March and September resolutions. The resolutions provide for the return of the General Secretariat to Cairo.

In his statement, al-As'ad said that this step represents the beginning of the General Secretariat's efforts to complete the transfer process by implementing all the provisions of the two resolutions, including the guarantee of the rights of employees in Tunis and Cairo.

Al-As'ad Receives 'Abd-al-Majid

NC0111164390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1446 GMT
1 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 1 Nov (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has reiterated that Egypt's stand on the Gulf crisis is clear and that Egypt wants to see a full and unconditional settlement of the issue through the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the reinstatement of the legitimate government.

He said: We are eager to find a peaceful solution to this problem based on two basic principles—Iraq's withdrawal and the restoration of the Kuwaiti legitimacy. He noted that we will be happy if a peaceful solution is reached.

This statement came at a news conference held by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and acting Arab League Secretary General As'ad al-As'ad after their meeting at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo today.

'Abd-al-Majid declined to answer a question on whether or not an Arab summit will be convened, saying: I have no information about this matter.

He emphasized that Egypt considers the Arab League the home of every Arab, and said: Although we are witnessing differences, these differences are temporary and the Arab fold will reunite. We hope that this will happen as soon as possible.

Referring to Tunisia's role during the Arab League's presence there, he said: We regard Tunisia with affection and appreciation. Undoubtedly, the [Arab League's] return is a result of the implementation of the League's charter. At this time the Arab League is pursuing its mission, and we are most anxious to see that this mission succeeds under these circumstances which require the Arab nation's solidarity, unity, and cohesion.

On the issue of compensation for the Arab League employees, he said: Every problem has its solution. This problem from my point of view is a humanitarian one. We must secure the rights and dues of the employees in a reasonable manner acceptable to all who are working at [word indistinct] or at the temporary headquarters. This is what we want to emphasize, and we assure everyone that each will receive his due.

On his own behalf, As'ad al-As'ad welcomed 'Abd-al-Majid to the Arab League headquarters and said: The visit shows your appreciation of the League, which we hope will remain prosperous and unified.

The acting secretary general noted that Egypt has always carried the banner of Arab unity, that the Arab League is the home of the Arabs, and that the future is one of Arab solidarity and joint and unified action under the Arab League umbrella.

Envoys Present Credentials

NC0111114390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT
1 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 1 Nov (MENA)—As'ad al-'As'ad, acting secretary general of the Arab League, received today the credentials of Mahmud Abu-al-Nasr, Egypt's permanent envoy to the League and former assistant foreign minister.

Al-'As'ad also received the credentials of Badir 'Umar al-Dafa', Qatar's ambassador to Cairo who will also be his country's permanent envoy to the Arab League.

Islamic Affairs**Denktas Addresses Islamic Meeting on Cyprus, Gulf**

TA3110171990 (Clandestine) Bayrak Radio
in Turkish to Cyprus 1630 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] President Rauf Denktas has said that the resolutions adopted by Islamic conferences on the issue of Cyprus must be implemented. He was addressing a meeting in Libya on the latest developments in the Islamic world. He pointed out that the Cyprus resolutions adopted by Islamic conferences are quickly forgotten.

On the Gulf crisis, Denktas said that Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait and the U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia must be replaced by an international force. He stated that the forces of the United States and other countries must give Saudi Arabia guarantees. He explained that guarantees to be given to Saudi Arabia may be possible with the replacement of the U.S. troops by troops from countries agreed upon by the concerned sides. All this must be done within the framework of the United Nations, he said.

Denktas said: We cannot achieve anything by adopting resolutions here, but rather by creating public opinion along these lines in our respective countries.

Denktas stressed that time is running out.

The president also pointed out that long-term work is needed to establish proper Islamic unity.

In today's session of the meeting, problems concerning the Islamic world and the Cyprus problem are to be discussed.

Palestinian Affairs**FRC Denounces U.S. Decision on Extradition**

NC0111141290 Paris AFP in English 1259 GMT
1 Nov 90

[Text] Beirut, Nov 1 (AFP)—A Palestinian organization headed by Abu Nidal on Thursday [1 November] denounced a decision by the United States to extradite one of the group's militants to Israel.

The Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC), in a statement to AFP, said the United States was "responsible for the

security of Dr. Mahmud al-'Abid," a Palestinian with U.S. nationality who is also known as Mahmud Ata.

Mr. Ata, 37, has been accused by Israel of terrorism in connection with a 1986 attack on a bus carrying Israeli settlers on the West Bank, which killed one and left one injured.

He was arrested in the United States three years ago and the U.S. Supreme Court on August 31 rejected his final appeal against extradition to Israel.

"The United States," according to the FRC, "is demonstrating its aggression against the Palestinian people and its just struggle to recover its rights and is new proof of close U.S. cooperation with the Zionist enemy."

The statement said the extradition Tuesday comes as Israeli authorities are permitting their security forces to open fire on Palestinian demonstrators.

It stressed that Mr. Ata is a "political prisoner and should have been covered by international conventions that would have prevented his extradition."

Search for Political Solution to Gulf 'Intensive'

LD3110133890 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1210 GMT
31 Oct 90

[Text] Tunis, 31 Oct (TAP)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to PLO President Yasir 'Arafat, affirmed that the PLO's efforts to secure an Arab political solution to the Gulf crisis "were continuing and intensive," and that the U.S. Administration has so far been "adamant" on closing all doors to an Arab political solution and was bringing pressure to bear on the region to prevent an Arab accord.

Abu-Sharif added that the PLO has been cooperating with the Arab countries since the start of the crisis and was intensifying its efforts to reach a political solution to the crisis "which would keep away the ghost of devastating war and that some foreign forces which have been intensifying their military presence in the region have been pushing matters toward this war."

In a statement circulated in Tunis today, Abu-Sharif also called on the EC member countries to abandon their method of duplicity of criteria in dealing with the UN resolutions on the Middle East and affirmed that the use of duplicate criteria "will only help encourage Israel to persist with its terrorism against the Palestinian people."

Abu-Sharif disclosed that the PLO has obtained information about an Israeli plan to build a temple near the Wailing Wall, "a matter which will mean the desecration of Islamic holy places and the dealing of a blow to the international legitimacy represented by UN Security Council Resolution No. 242." He affirmed that the Palestinian people will stand up with all the power they can muster to all Israeli plans to change the historic, religious, and demographic character of Jerusalem.

Abu-Sharif said that any such act by Israel will be tantamount to "a declaration of war by Israel against the Arabs, Muslims, and Christians in the world."

'Arafat Meets French Delegation, Praises Stand

JN0211080890 *Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1600 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, received yesterday afternoon a French delegation headed by Mr. (Debaussy), minister of state for cultural affairs and international cooperation.

During the meeting, they reviewed the situation inside the occupied Arab territories and the sufferings of the Palestinian people as a result of the organized Israeli oppression and terrorism, and the recurrent massacres carried out by the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian people. They also discussed the means to support the steadfastness of our Palestinian people inside their occupied homeland, specifically, what the French friends are providing, and the importance of developing this cooperation and support.

They also reviewed current events in the region, concentrating on the Gulf crisis and the need to exert efforts to remove the fear of war, stop the beating of war drums, and support the peaceful solution within the Arab framework with an international cover.

Brother Leader Abu-'Ammar appreciated the cultural relations between the state of Palestine and the French Republic. He affirmed his concern for developing and advancing them.

Brother Leader Abu-'Ammar entrusted Minister of State (Debaussy) with delivering a message of appreciation to President Mitterrand for his stand regarding the Palestine question and his support of the Palestinian national right to self-determination, as well as his courageous initiative to establish comprehensive peace in order to solve all the interlinked crises in the Middle East, foremost of which is the Palestine question.

'Abd-Rabbuh Notes Essential Shortages in Kuwait

JN0211091990 *Amman AL-RAY in Arabic*
7 Nov 90 pp 18, 13

[Text] Amman—The PLO holds the United States responsible for any harm inflicted on Palestinian citizens in Kuwait with its economic blockade or any future military action against Iraq.

Speaking to reporters following an official visit to Baghdad, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, said the Palestinians in Kuwait are facing many difficulties as a result of the current U.S.-led campaign against Iraq. He said there is a shortage of food and medicine, which is increasing every day and which will lead to a disaster within weeks unless urgent measures are taken.

'Abd-Rabbuh indicated that the PLO and Iraq have set up a committee to resolve these problems by contacting international bodies, particularly the United Nations. He said: We have officially asked the United Nations to allow the dispatch of food, medicine, and other essentials to the Palestinians in Kuwait.

Stressing that the PLO has the right to do so, he said the Security Council has decided to send food to some diplomats in Kuwait, and India was allowed to send food to its nationals. This, he said, should also be applied to Palestinians.

He added: In Baghdad I received the representatives of the Palestinian community in Kuwait and discussed with them various issues, including the problem of 100,000 Palestinians from Gaza who hold Egyptian travel documents but are not allowed to return to Gaza or Egypt to renew these documents.

He said: I have met with President Saddam Husayn and found him serious and sincere in his search for a peaceful solution within the Arab framework. He added: If winds blow in the wrong direction, however, that is, if the Americans spark off the war, Iraq's preparedness to defend itself will be very strong. He emphasized that any aggression against Iraq will lead to a sweeping conflagration in the entire region, and no Arab state will remain silent.

He described Soviet envoy Primakov's visit as important and successful. He said a dialogue was held on the components of a political solution, and viewpoints were exchanged on the fundamentals of this solution.

He said: I am confident now that Moscow and Paris know that Iraq is ready to remove the pretext being exploited by the United States regarding the foreigners in Iraq.

He added that the problem can be resolved by adopting a clear position rejecting the option of war and embarking on political dialogue. 'Abd-Rabbuh hoped that Primakov will continue his mission and that next time he will come with basic ideas on the Gulf crisis, the Palestine question, and the conflict in the Middle East.

He stressed that linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question is not a Palestinian or Iraqi creation, or a personal desire. He added: We are not dealing with Kuwait as a hostage pending the resolution of the Palestine question.

He praised Soviet President Gorbachev's statements in which he stressed the importance of an Arab solution to the Gulf problem, and said it is an important and realistic position.

Call for UN Protection of Palestinians Urged

JN2710073690 *Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic*
1945 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] The PLO has called for a conference of the Ministerial Council of the Arab League to develop a collective call for a UN Security Council resolution to

ensure protection for the Palestinian people. Brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO's information department and Executive Committee member said this to the Iraqi newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH. He stressed that the Security Council must send UN forces to the occupied Palestinian territory to ensure the safety of the Palestinian people under occupation. We have demanded that the Ministerial Council of the Arab League collectively call on the Security Council to impose sanctions on Israel for its refusal to comply with its resolutions, 'Abd-Rabbuh added. The council has reached a decision and we have called on all the Arab states, including those that have allowed foreign invasion forces on their territory to think of the risks to pan-Arab security. We pointed out that all of Washington's attempts to cover up for the crimes of its ally Israel are unacceptable, and that we will continue to work within and outside the Security Council to expose this American collusion. The world now sees how the Security Council has turned into a puppet manipulated by the United States and its ally Britain, passing with alacrity successive, unjust resolutions against Iraq, he added.

Brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said developments in Jerusalem and the occupied land illustrate the link between the battle waged by our Palestinian people and Iraq's battle against all forces of invasion violating Arab and Muslim shrines.

Alleged Plan To Build 'Third Temple' Viewed

JN2610211490 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Brothers: Two weeks ago—barely three days after the Jerusalem massacre—Cairo radio quoted an Israeli archeologist named (Yusuf Tora) as saying that Israel will shortly begin building the so-called third temple on the ruins of the al-Aqsa Mosque. Asked by French Television whether this meant the destruction of the al-Aqsa Mosque, (Tora) replied in the negative, adding that with the benefit of technology, Israel can disassemble the mosque.

The political editor of the PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY-WAFA said in reaction: Even after the massacre, and despite the kind of defense of the holy shrines made by Palestinians and the blood sacrifices made to safeguard them, Israel is persistently pursuing plans to destroy the al-Aqsa Mosque and build in its place the so-called third temple. Despite the defiance the move engenders in Muslim sentiments worldwide and in the region, there has not been any reaction to the Israeli plans, which will only lead to further terror and slaughter in addition to the damage and destruction caused to the holy shrines.

As we await such reactions to core issues of faith rather than politics, we would have hoped that al-Azhar [Cairo-based institution considered to be the highest Islamic seat of learning] would live up to its responsibilities toward an issue with which it should directly concern itself, and so issue a ruling as ordered by God on the

protection and defense of His houses instead of sanctioning recourse to any power, not excluding even Israel, to defend the territory [of Saudi Arabia]. Not only al-Azhar, but all other religious and political authorities are called upon to work to stop this fresh criminal act that Israel is about to perpetrate.

PFLP-GC Acknowledges Three Wounded in Raid

JN0111193590 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian
Arab Radio in Arabic 1745 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] A military spokesman of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has stated the following:

After 1330 today, 1 November 1990, a Zionist enemy formation consisting of four planes raided our advance positions near the Majdal Balhis town which is close to al-Qir'awn lake. The hostile formation directed dozens of rockets at our positions. Some of these rockets exploded and some of them, of the timed type, have still not exploded.

Our losses: Three received slight injuries.

The PFLP-GC affirms that these successive raids on its positions will only increase its determination to continue armed struggle and to back the intifadah of our Palestinian people, who are made great by their steadfastness and sacrifices. The Zionist raids and those who back them in the United States of America will not terrify us.

The Zionist enemy earlier fabricated, as is its wont, a news item saying that the PFLP-GC lost three martyrs. The Front has refuted this Zionist lie. Lebanese police sources announced that 12 civilians were injured in the raid.

It is noteworthy that this is the second time in a week that the Zionist air force has bombed Palestinian targets in Lebanon. The Zionist enemy planes bombed the same position in the Lebanese al-Biq'a plain in September last year.

Former Aide Interviewed on Sabri Al-Banna

AU3110150390 Vienna Television Service in German
2007 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Report by Taxi Productions, Paris, including interview with 'Atif Abu Bakr, "close" aide of Fatah Revolutionary Council Chairman Sabri al-Banna, by unidentified reporter; place and date not given; Abu Bakr statements in Arabic with superimposed German translation]

[Excerpt] South Lebanon, the no-man's-land between the zone where the civil war is raging and the border with Israel: Palestinian guerrillas are carrying out exercises. They belong to one of the most radical splinter groups of the PLO. Their leader is Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna]. Nidal, who has often been reported dead, has for two decades been the most-feared instigator of international terrorist attacks.

This man knows everything about Abu Nidal [video shows 'Atif Abu Bakr]. In the eighties, he was Abu Nidal's closest aide within the Fatah Revolutionary Council. He has deserted the PLO group. His name is 'Atif Abu Bakr.

[Begin recording] [Abu Bakr] This is the Abu Nidal I have known in 1967, 1970, 1984 and later [video shows photograph of Abu Nidal]. I do not think that he has in the meantime changed his face through plastic surgery. He changes his appearance by wearing tinted glasses and with a moustache, for example. Since only a very few people know what he really looks like, he can move rather freely.

[Reporter] Is this Abu Nidal? [video shows photograph]

[Abu Bakr] No.

[Reporter] What about this photograph [video shows another photograph]?

[Abu Bakr] This looks very much like him. Of course, he is older today. When these pictures of Abu Nidal were taken at the beginning of the seventies, he was about 35 years old. [Video shows former President 'Abd-al-Nasir, accompanied by Palestinian delegation, including Abu Nidal] He was born in 1937. He still looks the same today as in this film. He has only gained a little weight and is wearing a moustache now. [end recording]

These pictures were taken during an official visit of former Egyptian President 'Abd-al-Nasir. At the time Abu Nidal was a member of a Palestinian delegation. This is the only video in which he can be seen.

Abu Nidal has been the driving force behind international terrorism for 15 years. In Vienna in 1981 [attack on the synagogue], and in 1989 when the Rome and Vienna airports were attacked. He is also responsible for the massacre on the Rue de Rosiers in Paris, the killing of moderate Palestinian leaders, and the attack on the City of Porus cruiser.

[Being Abu Bakr recording] Abu Nidal was often in Europe. He was in Switzerland several times, and he traveled to Sweden, Austria, and France. He went to Paris especially to organize the attack in the Rue de Rosiers, but he did not participate in the attack directly. He was also in the CSFR, Hungary, Yugoslavia, and Bulgaria. He was once detained and questioned by Spanish authorities at an airport. They detained him for several hours to determine his real identity. They did not, however, succeed in doing this. [end recording]

'Atif Abu Bakr has known Abu Nidal for 23 years. There is hardly anyone who knows more about him.

[Begin Abu Bakr recording] We knew that he was planning something when he was very friendly with someone. His friendliness was an unmistakable sign that something would happen soon. He is like a snake. His outward appearance is soft, but his bite is deadly. He feels best when he can surround himself with weak persons. He has

problems dealing with strong characters who openly speak their minds. For hours he studies reports on the private lives of his fellow fighters and their families. He is interested in every detail of their way of life, such as when they go to the hairdresser, how many apples they buy at the market every day, and how much money they spend every month. These small things are particularly important for him. He has surrounded himself with a network of confidants from his own family. All of them hold key positions within the organization. Their appointments were made in utmost secrecy. No member of the organization, not even the heads of the individual sections, knew anything about it.

Abu Nidal killed his wife's brother after an allegedly political quarrel. In reality, they were quarreling about a piece of land in Jordan which was registered under the name of his brother-in-law. He also killed his brother-in-law's son. The five-year-old boy died in the car with his father. Abu Nidal's wife was desperate. As a matter of fact, the couple have still been living together for the past four years, but there is no longer any communication between them.

Nowadays Abu Nidal is also the chairman of a worldwide economic concern that earns considerable profits. He used to have an import-export company in East Berlin, in Warsaw, in Athens, in Zurich, and so on. Do you want to know how this conglomerate of companies, which used to administer a large portion of his investments, was discovered? One of the directors of his companies who headed the East Berlin office at the time, defected to the West, gave himself up to the CIA, and told them what he knew. The man's name was (Irr Abdel Hassan). When the American media found out about this affair, these import-export companies soon had to terminate their business activities. As a matter of fact, Abu Nidal lost a great deal of money, but this was by no means the end for him. He had other interests as well. To document Abu Nidal's financial strength, one need only mention his Swiss bank account. A total of \$15 million has been deposited there under his daughter's name. [end recording]

Abu Bakr left Abu Nidal's organization when it began to be shaken by bloody internal conflicts. Between 1987 and 1989, over 400 members were allegedly eliminated on Abu Nidal's orders. [passage omitted]

Correction to Radio Defends Palestinian Position

JN3010142890

The following correction pertains to the item headlines "PLO Radio Defends Palestinian Position on Gulf," published in the 30 October Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, pp 2-3:

Make sourceline read: Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1930 GMT 26 Oct 90 (correcting date)

Make subslug read: [Wafa political editor's commentary entitled: "Portrait"] (adding to identification)

Egypt

Al-Jihad Group Denies Role in Assassination

NC0111174390 Paris AFP in English 1627 GMT
1 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, Nov 1 (AFP)—A caller claiming to speak for Egyptian fundamentalist leader 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman denied Thursday [1 November] that his clandestine al-Jihad movement assassinated parliamentary Speaker Rif'at al-Mahjub on October 12.

The spokesman said he was calling from Pakistan, where Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahman moved a few months ago after spells in Sudan and Afghanistan. The al-Jihad movement was responsible for President Anwar al-Sadat's assassination in October 1981.

The caller said Mr. al-Mahjub deserved to die for promulgating laws contrary to the shari'a (strict Islamic law), but al-Jihad had not killed him because the organization is preparing a much bigger action, the overthrow of the whole regime.

The Egyptian authorities said on Saturday [28 October] they had arrested 700 suspects in the Speaker's killing who had confessed they belonged to al-Jihad. The phone caller said they had been tortured into making such admissions.

Arrests Made Regarding Bani Suwayf Incident

NC0111192090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1616 GMT
1 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Bani Suwayf, 1 Nov (MENA)—Director of the Bani Suwayf police, Lieutenant General Ibrahim Muhsin Sarhan, has asserted that the security situation in Bani Suwayf is absolutely calm after yesterday's incident in which a bomb exploded in the home of an extremist, injuring his two sisters and another girl.

He said that all of the explosives, chains, and jars containing TNT which were found in the house have been transferred. [sentence as received] Sayyid 'Abd-al-'Aziz, a member of an extremist group, supplied extremists with this equipment for use against policemen and innocent civilians.

In a statement to a MENA reporter, he added that the security authorities have arrested approximately 250 extremists for questioning regarding attacks on policemen and the use of explosives in city disturbances.

He pointed out that the police force has combed the area and laid ambushes at exit points in order to arrest the outlaws and extremists.

LT. Gen. Sarhan said the detainees are being sorted through and that anyone cleared of membership in these extremist groups or of participation in city unrest is being released immediately. Anyone that evidence shows

involved in activities against the police or citizens, is being referred to the prosecution for interrogation, he added.

He noted that police authorities are continuing their efforts to arrest the fugitive extremist Sayyid 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in whose home the explosives were seized yesterday and who was previously arrested as a threat to public security. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia Reinforcements Said Imminent

13/0111/51090 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 30 Oct 90 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Egyptian Military Reinforcements To Reach Saudi Arabia Within Days"]

[Excerpt] Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from Cairo that the first units of the additional Egyptian Armed Forces reinforcements will be dispatched to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the immediate future. They will include forces and various types of weapons. They will join the Egyptian forces already on the Saudi front.

The sources emphasized that the new Egyptian reinforcements will help to defend Saudi territory against any foreign threats and will work in coordination with the Saudi forces and the supporting Arab and Islamic forces, under Saudi command.

An authoritative Egyptian source has said that Egypt's decision to send further military reinforcements confirms Egypt's eagerness to protect Saudi security in particular, and Gulf security in general. It proves that Arab forces are capable of making security arrangements for the Gulf region.

Meanwhile, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the legitimate Kuwaiti Government has asked Egypt to arrange for a number of its military experts to help train the Kuwaiti forces now in Saudi Arabia to take part—alongside the Saudi forces and the supporting Arab and Islamic forces—in repelling any aggression against Saudi territory. [passage omitted]

Oil Minister Expects \$3 Billion in Oil Revenues

1N0111201990 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
23 Oct 90 p 6

[Report by Khalid Jabe]

[Excerpt] Chemist 'Abd-al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, has declared that the expected revenues of oil exports this year will exceed \$3 billion, representing the revenues of selling about 11 million tons annually.

At the inauguration of the National Conference for Geology and Development, Qandil added that the Egyptians have managed to discover many oilfields, thus raising Egypt's stockpiles to about 5 billion barrels, including 3.5 billion barrels of oil and 12 trillion cubic feet of gas. He said the

new discoveries are approximately equal to what is being extracted, so that Egypt remains in a state of full self-sufficiency. [passage omitted]

Libya

JANA Comments on Expulsion of PLF

LD0111204490 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1615 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] Tripoli, 1 Nov (JANA)—In a dispatch from Amman, REUTER reported a statement by the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] saying that Libya has taken measures against the PLF which include closing down its offices and areas of its presence in Libyan Arab territories. [sentence as received] REUTER quoted the JORDAN TIMES, published in English in Amman, citing PLF sources, that these measures were the result of foreign and Arab pressure.

JANA's Arab affairs editor commented on the report by saying: Despite the enthusiasm in the report, the hidden insinuation and deliberate exaggeration in it, devoid of the spirit of commitment and responsibility from those who are not above suspicion when it comes to Pan-Arab issues, does not pass unnoticed by anyone. In order to put matters right, it is necessary to stress the following:

1. The Great Jamahiriya will not submit to pressure whatever the source, whether Arab or foreign, and it has borne the responsibility for Pan-Arab action for over 20 years without changing its stand or yielding to blackmail, and no one can force it to take a stand or a decision regarding any issue or trend as a result of alleged or real pressures.
2. The Great Jamahiriya has been subjected more than once to aggression and to political, economic, and media blockade in defense of the independence of its political decision regarding Pan-Arab and national decisions... [JANA ellipses] It does not need to justify a stand or declare a fact concerning that.
3. While specifying its stands on Pan-Arab issues, primarily the Palestine issue, the Great Jamahiriya will not accept tendentious interpretations of these stands and will not accept pressures, if there are any, except from the Palestinian people who have the first say, and any measure or decision it may take will be based on the opinion of the PLO, which has the political and administrative structures acceptable to the Palestinian people.

If we have to say something to conclude this comment on the PLF's statement it would be that while facing challenges in the most serious phase of Pan-Arab struggle, one of the responsibilities of the Great Jamahiriya is to endeavor to secure the independence of its national and Pan-Arab decision and, above all, to secure Arab territories, led by Libya, from agents of Mossad.

Egyptian Paper Interviews Al-Qadhdhafi

NC2310072190 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2330 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—Libyan Revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi has declared that Libya is currently holding consultations to convene a mini summit conference to contain the Gulf crisis and to eliminate the current Arab division. But the date and venue of the summit have not yet been specified, al-Qadhdhafi added.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM to be published on 23 October, Col. al-Qadhdhafi said that his contacts with both Iraq and Kuwait are still continuing over his initiative to solve the crisis peacefully and within an Arab framework. He added that the Kuwaitis have told him that they will not accept any conditions for the Iraqi withdrawal from their country.

The Libyan leader pointed out that he is endeavoring to convince Iraq to accept his initiative. He added that he is still waiting for an answer from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to the message he sent to him with Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraq first deputy prime minister, during Ramadan's recent visit to Libya. The message deals with the need for a peaceful solution to the crisis, al-Qadhdhafi added.

In his interview with AL-AHRAM, al-Qadhdhafi said that he does not consider Kuwait to be part of Iraq or believe that it has conspired against Iraq. He expressed the conviction that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was prompted by a furious reaction due to the harm inflicted on Iraq as a result of Kuwait's stand on oil extraction and prices.

Alluding to the Arab situation, al-Qadhdhafi expressed sorrow because the Arab summit conference, which convened in Cairo on 10 August, has unintentionally caused a rift in the Arab ranks and created two imaginary fronts although all the conferees were against the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait with the exception of Iraq. However, they were also against the presence of the U.S. troops in the region.

Col. Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi called for reviving the united Arab front. He also called on all the Arabs to condemn the invasion of Kuwait and to reject the U.S. presence in the Gulf region. Al-Qadhdhafi said he expects that Arab funds will be invested in the Arab area because the Arab investor no longer has any confidence in the international market in light of the crisis and therefore will have to look to the Arab market.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi emphasized that Libya would welcome the Egyptian workers who returned from Iraq and Kuwait to work in agriculture. He noted that there is a coordination program between the Egyptians and Libyans allowing Egyptian workers to work in the southern oases extending from Kafra to Ghathah, which are supplied with electricity and basic services.

In his interview with AL-AHRAM, al-Qadhdhafi said: In assertion of the desire to promote bilateral cooperation between Egypt and Libya, a new ministry has been formed for cooperation and integration affairs between the two countries. He expressed confidence about developing all aspects of cooperation between Egypt and Libya in view of the good relations which bind him with President Husni Mubarak. He described President Mubarak as a brave fighter whose animosity toward Zionism is above any one-upmanship.

Mauritania

President Taya Receives Malian Envoy, Message

AB0111213290 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French
1430 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] This afternoon Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation [CMSN] and head of state, received Django Cissoko, minister secretary general of the presidency and special envoy of Malian President General Moussa Traore. Present at the audience was Dr. (Loule Diou Ahdad), permanent under secretary of the CMSN chairman and head of state, who also received the Malian minister at the airport. The minister spoke to our reporter, Ali Sidi Bajan.

[Begin Cissoko recording] I was received by President Taya to whom I delivered a message from his brother and friend, President Moussa Traore. This message concerns reinforcing friendly and brotherly relations between Mauritania and Mali. The message also concerns reinforcing cooperation between the countries. [end recording]

Morocco

Polisario Criticizes Spanish Arms Sales

PM0211109490 Madrid DIARIO 16 in Spanish
25 Oct 90 p 16

[J. Navares report: "Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro Accuses Spain of Arming Morocco and Not Supporting Peace Process"]

[Text] Madrid—Hash Ahmed, the representative of the Polisario Front [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] in Spain, announced at the offices of the parliamentary groups in Madrid that Spain has been arming Morocco since 1989. According to the Saharan representative, Spain sold Morocco armaments worth 60 billion pesetas during the period 1989-90.

Ahmed, who did not specify at the press conference whether the photographic material presented showed Spanish weapons recently captured from the Moroccans, did say that he "has enough information to confirm recent sales of unprecedented quantities of Spanish armaments to Morocco."

These include seven Casa CN-235 aircraft; 200 military vehicles, including Pegaso trucks and Enasa MR armored cars; night vision equipment; and Land Rover trucks.

A further consignment, worth another 10 billion pesetas, consists of mines, explosives, mortars, and field guns manufactured by the Spanish companies, Explosivos Alaveses and Ecia.

According to Ahmed, the Spanish Government's attitude "is an insult to one's intelligence and contradictory, if Spain really does support the establishment of peace in the Western Sahara."

The government, through the Ministry for Relations with the Cortes, replied to a question submitted by the United Left-Initiative for Catalonia (IU-IC) concerning sales of military equipment to Morocco.

The government's answer—described as "sarcastic" yesterday both by the Saharan representative and by IU deputy Narcis Vazquez—is that "the government has no evidence that this equipment has been used against the Saharan people." At the same time it stresses that "the largest volume of exports to Morocco consists of equipment for chiefly civilian purposes."

According to Hash Ahmed, the Madrid government's attitude ignores the fact that the confrontation in the Sahara is a war for the Saharan people's self-determination: "Spain should adopt more prudent stances, instead of arming Morocco. We do not want Spain to send its fleet to the Saharan coast," he said, with reference to the sending of Spanish troops to the Persian Gulf. "We would be satisfied with its ceasing to sell weapons to Morocco."

The Saharan representative said that this is the most delicate moment in the current peace process in the Sahara, now that the United Nations, in its Resolution 658, has established a timetable for a cease-fire and a referendum in the area, and all that remains is for Morocco to ratify its acceptance of it.

Joint Cease-Fire Proposal

PM0111155490 Madrid DIARIO 16 in Spanish
30 Oct 90 p 15

[J. Navares report: "Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro Will Propose to United Nations a Joint Cease-Fire in January for Sahara Referendum"]

[Excerpt] Madrid—In the coming weeks the Polisario Front [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] will propose to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar a cease-fire in the Western Sahara in the early months of 1991 in preparation for the referendum in the area, in accordance with UN resolutions, DIARIO 16 was told by Saharan diplomatic sources.

At present the Polisario Front is observing a unilateral cease-fire pending an explicit demonstration of support by King Hasan of Morocco for the latest UN resolution, number 658, approved in June, to hold the "referendum on self-determination" in the area. [passage omitted]

Laraki Critical of 'Defamation' by France

LD0111140490 Rabat MAP in English
1216 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] Rabat, Nov. 1 (MAP)—The defamation campaign against Morocco led these past times in France is perceived by the Moroccan people as an insult, said Moroccan Premier Azeddine Laraki in a message he addressed to his French peer Michel Rocard last October 1.

Laraki said 'this defamation campaign that does not spare neither Morocco's political system nor its economic and social choices'... 'is organized by individuals and groups from various trends'.

'Huge means are mobilized so that all media circulate false propaganda and charges against Morocco', Laraki said recalling the interview Gilles Perrault had with 'Radio France Internationale' and wherein he gave a survey on his book 'Mon Ami Le Roi'.

This initiative was perceived by the Moroccan community as a deeply offensive insult and called to minds the calumnies circulated on the royal family on the eve of the big crisis of 1953, Laraki said adding that the interview would have been ignored had it not been broadcast by 'RFI', a media that is not like the others in view of its legal status. In this case, the usual arguments as to the freedom of the press and the irresponsibility of some newsmen cannot hold.

The Moroccan prime minister added that in the long Moroccan-French common history, all hardships were endured as long as the Kingdom's sacred motto 'God, the homeland, the king' was respected. Whenever one of these elements was harmed, major incidents were triggered.

Morocco is eager to preserve with France the best relations, he went on to say adding that 'the excellency of our relations enabled us to achieve together, for the good of our two countries, an exemplary work. It is now up to each of us, in the prospect of the new forms of cooperation that are taking shape and that will bind Europe to the southern Mediterranean to consolidate our common undertakings'.

The French-Moroccan partnership must anyhow avoid 'serious insults' to preserve the mutual advantages that our two countries derive from a frank and friendly cooperation, the Moroccan prime minister said.

The French media campaign against Morocco was strongly denounced by all the components of the Moroccan society. In hundreds of messages to the French president, prime minister and to the minister of foreign affairs, Moroccans denounce the campaign as an interference in the Kingdom's internal affairs and reject any attempt to harm the country's secular sacred values.

They [word indistinct] warn against the negative impact such a campaign could have on Moroccan-French relations and call on French public authorities to avoid that this friendship be affected.

UK's Waldegrave Ends Visit 1 Nov

LD0111143890 Rabat MAP in English 1258 GMT
1 Nov 90

[Text] Rabat, Nov. 1 (MAP)—British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and the Commonwealth William Waldegrave left Morocco Wednesday at the end of a three-day official visit during which he signed two important accords with Moroccan officials.

At a news conference at the Mohamed V Airport, the British minister expressed satisfaction at the result of talks he had during his visit, especially with Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali.

Waldegrave also noted on this occasion that his visit to Morocco was a sign of the similarity and rapprochement of the two countries' attitudes, especially with regard to the Gulf crisis.

The British minister said his visit was also important in that it will reinforce trade and industrial exchanges between the two countries, in conformity with the two accords on investment protection and non-double taxation.

As to cooperation in the area of drugs fighting, Waldegrave said his talks with Moroccan Minister of Health Taeb Bencheikh, who is president of the ministerial commission on drug fighting, will offer opportunities for the exchange of experts between the two kingdoms.

Sudan

Government Satisfied With Syrian Position on Gulf

EA0111163290 Khartoum SUNA in English
0918 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 1 November (SUNA)—Sudan has expressed satisfaction over the current Syrian position towards reaching a political solution to Gulf crisis. The remark was made in a meeting held here yesterday between the Revolution Command Council member and chairman of the peace and foreign affairs department, Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah and the Syrian ambassador to Sudan. The meeting also touched on the developments in Lebanon hoping that peace could be attained in the country. The Syrian diplomat thanked the Sudan Government for attaching due concern to the situation in Lebanon and other Arab countries.

Egypt Cancels Scholarships for Sudanese Students

EA0111211290 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan
in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] The Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education has issued a resolution to terminate annual scholarships to 1,500 Sudanese students. It also requires Sudanese students at Egyptian universities and institutes to pay annual fees of 2,000 sterling pounds. It is worth mentioning that observers have linked this development to the position of the Islamic Front government, which supports the aggression against Kuwait and has made Sudan a base for the export of terrorism to Egypt.

RCC Member Issues Statement on Ties With Chad

EA0111103090 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic
1025 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] Khartoum, 31 October (SUNA)—Major General al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and political supervisor of Darfur Region, has confirmed Sudan's readiness to direct all its energies toward establishing peace, sparing bloodshed, and achieving stability, development and (?prosperity) for the people of Chad. He explained in a statement published here today that the revolution has, since its advent, adhered to a wise policy towards all states of the world and has upheld the slogan of peace (?with all), rejected every attempt to drag it toward centers of regional conflict, and distanced itself from interference in the internal affairs of countries both near and far. He said Chad, a sisterly state with which we are united by faith and blood ties [words indistinct]. His excellency confirmed Sudan's great enthusiasm for the unity of Chad and the blood of its people. [sentence as heard] He pointed out that the presence of the Chadian opposition in Sudan does not indicate Sudan's alignment with one or the other parties in the conflict, but rather the acceptance of an opposition as a fait accompli.

Tunisia**Ministry Issues Statement on Arab League Move**

LD0211020790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
2300 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] The Foreign Ministry issued the following statement:

Faced by the insistence of some on hastening the transfer of the Arab League residence, the Tunisian Government expresses its extreme protest against and regrets the method used in dealing with that issue without considering the situation described by Tunisia in its detailed memorandum to the Arab League General Secretariat, dated 12 October 1990. The memorandum underlined the contradiction between the resolution of the Cairo emergency session and the resolution adopted by the Arab League Council in March 1990 in Tunis. At the same time, Tunisia stresses its pan-Arab adherence to the requirements of that resolution if it is to be unanimously ratified.

The Tunisian Government also considers this insistence contrary to all Arab countries approval of the Moroccan proposal to suspend the 94th session of the Arab League Council (?in accordance) with the Arab Maghreb Union memorandum concerning the cancellation of the implementation of the transfer procedures until the resumption of that session.

The Tunisian Government warns against the effects, which might stem from this behavior, on the future of the joint Arab action, particularly as no progress has been recorded in all the agreed measures accompanying the transfer [words indistinct].

Khouini Sworn In as Maghreb Affairs Secretary

LD0111204490 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] Hamadi Khouini, who has been appointed secretary of state to the foreign minister for Maghreb affairs, was sworn in the morning today before President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Bahrain

Minister Cites 'New Page' in Ties With Tehran

JN0111192690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1730 GMT
1 Nov 90

[Text] Manama, 1 Nov (WAKH)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah returned to Manama this evening from Tehran after an official 2-day visit.

In a statement to WAKH after his arrival, the Bahraini minister said that during his visit to Iran he delivered a written message from Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on bilateral relations and ways of bolstering and developing them to serve the mutual interests of the two peoples.

He added that, during the visit, he also held two meetings with his Iranian counterpart Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, during which he reviewed bilateral relations and means of bolstering and developing them. He pointed out that an agreement was reached on this issue to appoint an ambassador to each of their respective countries.

He also noted that agreement was reached to start a shipping line between the two countries as a way to bolster trade exchange. The Bahraini minister pointed out that they reviewed current events in the region and the dangerous results of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Points of view were in agreement that there is no solution to this dangerous crisis other than implementing the Security Council resolutions which condemn this aggression and call for the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait with no preconditions or restrictions, the reinstatement of the legitimate government in Kuwait, and nonrecognition of the measures taken during the invasion.

Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah said the two sides affirmed the need to preserve the existing borders in the region.

He clarified that the Bahraini and Iranian sides indicated their satisfaction with the meeting held in New York between the Gulf Cooperation Council's foreign ministers and Iran and expressed their desire to work toward holding another such meeting to finalize these discussions so as to serve the interests of the countries and peoples in the region.

Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah concluded his statement by expressing his hope that this visit will open a new page in relations between the two countries.

Kuwait

Amir Said To Seek Talks With Iraq on Crisis

JN0111093490 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic
3 Nov 90 pp 1, 23

[Text] An AKHBAR AL-USBU' dispatch from London says the Kuwaiti amir has asked the Kuwaiti opposition in exile to find out through Arab mediators whether Iraq agrees to negotiate with his government in order to reach an agreement that would resolve the Gulf crisis according to Iraqi terms. Sources said Shaykh Jabir expressed his readiness to agree to all Iraqi demands in return for his return to power and Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

The sources added that Shaykh Jabir asked mediators to propose to Baghdad the dispatch of a Kuwaiti official for talks with the Iraqi Government in order to draw up the bases on which the crisis can be resolved. Shaykh Jabir also told the mediators he would be ready to form a new government from the opposition that would not include more than two ministers from the al-Sabah family, that the coming government will be constitutional and democratic, and that the role of the amir would be only that of giving advice and not making decisions.

The Kuwaiti opposition had earlier proposed to the Kuwaiti popular conference that a new government be formed in exile to negotiate with Iraq and guarantee its rights. This was announced by Ahmad al-Khatib, an opposition leader currently in London. He expressed his readiness to go to Baghdad at the head of an opposition delegation if officially asked to do so, provided that the al-Sabah family accepts any agreement reached. The sources said Saudi Arabia does not object to the efforts being made by Shaykh Jabir to reach a solution with Iraq to the Gulf crisis as Saudi Arabia seeks a peaceful solution to it.

Resistance Statement Details Iraqi Brutality

PM0111121390 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic
25 Oct 90 p 14

[Hamud al-Rumayh report: "165 Iraqi Officers, One Minister Killed in Jumbo Incident"]

[Text] The Kuwaiti resistance has condemned the blackout maintained by the media of the Iraqi regime and some other regimes supporting the brutal Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait.

The resistance refuted statements by Iraqi officials that the resistance men have been crushed completely. Resistance elements say that it is growing daily.

A Kuwaiti resistance official said in a statement to AL-RIYAD that the resistance is at the height of its power and has inflicted heavy losses on the invading forces. He was commenting on a statement issued by the Kuwaiti resistance, a copy of which was received by AL-RIYAD yesterday. It says:

1. The resistance draws attention to the fact that Iraq does not allow any world media reporters to enter Kuwait. To justify its position to public opinion it gathers some Iraqis and Palestinians in a demonstration before the cameras and reporters in order to deceive world public opinion with the president's imaginary popularity.

2. Kuwaiti demonstrations against the legitimate Kuwaiti Government are staged by force and under the threat of arms. And most demonstrations staged in front of the press and the media comprise Iraqis and Palestinians in Kuwaiti dress. As for the Kuwaitis who appear on the Iraqi regime's television supporting the Saddam regime with a slogan of support forcibly dictated for them beforehand, the viewer probably does not know that behind the camera there is a gun aimed at their heads.

3. Any person who uses any Kuwaiti slogan, even an old one used before the invasion, is arrested, tortured, and then executed.

4. Carrying the Kuwaiti dinar is a crime whose perpetrator is severely penalized.

5. Anyone suspected of being affiliated to any military corps—police, Army, National Guard, or resistance—is taken from his family. He disappears for a week or two, then they bring him home and mercilessly execute him in front of his family and neighbors in the street. People are allowed to remove the body for burial only 24 hours later.

6. In reply to press reports about the blowing up of a 747 jumbo jet belonging to Iraqi Airlines, the plane had on board exactly 165 Iraqi officers of the rank of major and above. It also had on board one minister, two under secretaries, and other VIPs. The incident did not occur over the sea, as stated by some newspapers, but precisely over the al-Matla' area. And the missiles used were Stirla [name as transliterated; possibly, Strela] missiles—two of them—not Stingers, as reported. The engines on the starboard wing received a direct hit, and as a result the plane crashed in the al-Matla' area.

7. All vegetables and fruits in Kuwait and Iraq come from Jordan. The same applies to some basic foodstuffs. But these are very expensive and scarce and can only be obtained on the black market. Medicines also come via Jordan. They are of Jordanian and Iraqi manufacture. Their prices are astronomical inside Kuwait but are very cheap in Iraq. There is no control over Jordanian traders. They are totally free to set any price they like for their commodities. And they, in turn, buy electrical equipment from Kuwait very cheaply and sell it at double the price in Baghdad or Jordan.

8. Medical care and medicines are almost nonexistent, especially in Kuwait. Kuwaiti citizens are prevented from going to the hospital and are not received there. The handicapped are thrown to the floor and are brutally deprived of their wheelchairs.

9. The massacre committed by the Iraqi regime on the morning of Friday, 12 October 1990, claimed the lives of 26

people. AL-RIYAD published the details in its second edition on 13 October 1990, but the media paid no attention to it despite its atrocity. AL-RIYAD published the crime after it received reports saying the number of victims was 20, but later the number reached 26. Their nationalities comprised 19 Kuwaitis, including two women; four Egyptians; and three Westerners whose identities were removed so that their nationalities could not be determined. But their features showed they were Europeans.

10. Most mosques have been stripped of air-conditioning units, PA systems, and carpets. Copies of the Koran have been strewn on the floors and outside the mosque, and when a soldier was asked why they left the copies of the Koran and did not take them away along with the rest of the furniture and equipment, he said that they did not need them. We will leave them for you, he said. And indeed, they do not deserve to carry them and they should be left for those who believe in them.

11. All agents and collaborators working for the Iraqi regime are known. The resistance has their names and addresses, and those convicted by the resistance have been liquidated.

12. The Iraqi regime issued a decision to execute 10 Kuwaitis for each Iraqi soldier killed.

13. In reply to Minister al-Mutawwa's statement to British radio and VOA that the resistance has been crushed, we tell everyone that the resistance exists, is growing daily, and will not rest until the invaders leave the beloved Kuwaiti territory. We will all sacrifice ourselves for Kuwait. We also emphasize that there is no peaceful solution, so when will the military solution take place?

14. The Iraqi Army has withdrawn most of its forces and replaced them with dummy structures [h. yakil liltam-wih]. These include water tanks covered partly with sand with a lamp post mounted on them to make them look like tanks in shelters. All the divisions which have been withdrawn are behind the al-Matla' area. The number of Iraqi troops inside Kuwait and on the Kuwaiti border has dropped from 350,000 to 200,000.

15. The imam of a mosque was killed because he rejected the occupation forces' order not to perform the prayers. He was executed in the al-Sabahiyah area.

16. The resistance men acquire ammunition and arms by exchanging foodstuffs for one weapon and a pack of cigarettes for 24 bullets.

17. Some newspapers persisted in publishing reports to the effect that some [non-Kuwaiti] Arab nationals had joined the resistance, and we confirm that there are no nationals with the resistance aside from Egyptian nationals.

18. With regard to Saddam Husayn's claims that baby milk is not available, these are designed to gain public sympathy. And we emphasize that milk is available in the market, and in abundance. The items which are not available are tea and sugar, and where they are available they are very expensive.

19. Resistance sources have emphasized that differences between Jordan and Iraq are currently at their height, and Iraq is currently trying to contain them because of its need for an outlet and a supplier in view of the blockade.

Ministry Accuses Iraq of Printing False Documents

LD0211091690 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
0600 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] An official source at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry has said that the tyrannical Iraqi regime has started to falsify documents attributed to the Government of the State of Kuwait or bodies affiliated to it by using official Kuwaiti printed material seized by its unjust occupation forces.

He added: Since the Foreign Ministry has noticed that the Iraqi regime has been deliberately distributing this kind of alleged [maz'umah] documents in some world capitals, the minister has decided to draw attention to this matter despite the naivety of the contents which the Iraqi regime has usually included in these documents.

He concluded: It is not unknown to anyone that the criminal regime, which has not hesitated in perpetrating the most vile crimes against the Kuwaiti people, the Iraqi people, and against humanity as a whole, will not hesitate to use every twisted criminal means that would serve its aggressive objectives, including, naturally, the use of printed material at its disposal in order to falsify documents and use them against the State of Kuwait or other countries.

Premier Meets With Sudanese, Ethiopian Officials

LD3110191490 London KUNA in Arabic 1723 GMT
31 Oct 90

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 31 Oct (KUNA)—Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, received Sudanese Democratic party leader Muhammad Uthman al-Mirghani here last night. Further information on the meeting was not immediately available.

Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah also received Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister Wolle Chekol last night.

Oil Minister Comments on Oil Losses, Damages

NC2710212590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT
27 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Al-Ta'if, 27 Oct (MENA)—Kuwaiti Oil and Industry Minister Dr. Rashid al-'Amiri has stated that Kuwait's investments abroad are various, multinational, and estimated at around \$100 billion. He said that these investments have enabled the Kuwaiti Government to confront the tribulation of the Iraqi invasion.

In an exclusive statement to the MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY, Dr. al-'Amiri added that the revenue from these investments is great and is helping the Kuwaiti Government to meet its requirements and projects in these circumstances and its expenditures for the media and for various services

to the Kuwaiti people both inside and outside its territories. The revenue is also helping it to extend aid to countries affected by this invasion.

He said that Kuwait's losses from the halted pumping of Kuwaiti oil and its export are estimated at around \$60 million a day, noting that Kuwait's oil production before the invasion was 1.5 million barrels a day. He accused Iraq of stealing large quantities of the super 98 octane Kuwaiti fuel reserves, adding that around half a million barrels of this fuel have been stolen from the Kuwaiti oil refineries and moved to Iraq.

He also said that Iraq has stolen and moved to Baghdad large amounts of the Kuwaiti oil companies' spare parts, equipment, and machines as well as all the vehicles, equipment, and trucks which these companies owned. He estimated their value at hundreds of millions of dollars.

The Kuwaiti oil minister added that the three Kuwaiti oil refineries have stopped operating since the Iraqi invasion of his country and that the oil reserves are providing the necessary local Kuwaiti consumption which is estimated at around 90,000 barrels a day.

He stressed that the Kuwaiti oil wells could be repaired if they were damaged in any military battles that might take place and that everything can be repaired depending on the extent of the damage to the wells. He noted that Kuwait has the capability to restore wells to their normal condition in a short period of time.

Dr. Rashid al-'Amiri said that the present rise in oil prices could have a negative effect on the Kuwaiti issue because this rise will affect industrial and oil-consuming countries which are boycotting Iraq economically. He added that these countries would be affected directly or indirectly as a result of this boycott and of the halted exports of Kuwaiti and Iraqi oil. He added: It is in the interest of everyone to have reasonable oil prices. This is why Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, and other countries agreed at the recent OPEC meeting to increase their oil production in order to compensate for the shortfall in world markets that resulted from stopping Kuwaiti and Iraqi oil exports of around 4.5 million barrels a day. The availability of large quantities in the markets would thus lead to a drop in the price.

He added that the complete stoppage of Kuwaiti and Iraqi oil exports since the start of the Iraqi invasion will damage the oil wells in the future. These wells have a high proportion of bitumen which might leave residues that would block them. But these residues could be removed in the future when pumping of oil is restarted. [passage omitted]

Red Cross To Resume Efforts To Enter Nation

LD0111192790 London KUNA in Arabic 1742 GMT
1 Nov 90

[Text] Geneva, 1 November, KUNA—The International Committee of the Red Cross announced today that it will

resume its efforts to convince Iraq to allow its staff to enter Kuwait to carry out their humanitarian mission for those suffering from Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

A spokesman for the international organization informed the Kuwaiti News Agency about this through diplomatic channels.

Oman

King Husayn Arrives in Muscat 31 Oct

*JN3110163490 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 31 Oct 90*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn arrived in Muscat this afternoon on a visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

His majesty was accorded an official reception, where His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman headed those receiving him. Senior Omani officials were also present at the reception.

His majesty is accompanied by al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; His Royal Highness Ra'd Ibn-Zayd, chief chamberlain; and Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Discusses Gulf With Sultan

*JN3110172390 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 31 Oct 90*

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn and His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman held a round of talks in Muscat today. The talks were attended by the members of the Jordanian side accompanying His Majesty King Husayn and senior Omani officials.

The talks covered developments in the Gulf crisis and the current Arab situation. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

French Helicopters, Tanks, Troops Arrive

*NC0111183390 Paris AFP in English 1748 GMT
1 Nov 90*

[Text] Yanbu', Saudi Arabia, Nov 1 (AFP)—Two French ferries carrying about 24 Puma and Gazelle helicopters and some two dozen AMX-10RC tanks arrived in this Red Sea port on Thursday, French military sources said.

Trucks for the more than 5,800 French servicemen in Saudi Arabia were also aboard the two transport ships, the Cap Afrique and the Monthlery, they said.

The new Puma and Gazelle helicopters take the total number of the transport and fast anti-tank aircraft in Saudi Arabia to more than 70.

France now also has more than 70 tanks in the Kingdom following the arrival of another 24 AMX-10RC light battle tanks armed with 105mm guns.

Other French ships carrying additional equipment were expected to arrive in Yanbu' overnight, the French military sources said.

The two ships which arrived in Yanbu' on Thursday were joined here by about 500 French troops, including members of the Foreign Legion.

The infantrymen, who flew into Jeddah, are to accompany the new equipment on the two to three day trip from Yanbu' to the area in north-eastern Saudi Arabia where French troops are deployed.

A French military source said meanwhile Thursday that the "realignment" of French troops in the area several dozen kilometers south of the Saudi border with Iraq and Kuwait is "practically finished."

The French force deployed in the area along with Saudi and Arab forces has been changing positions during the past two weeks.

France has contributed more than 5,800 troops to the U.S.-led multi-national force assembled in Saudi Arabia following the August 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

In addition to ground forces, France has sent some 30 warplanes to Saudi Arabia, including Mirages 2000s and Jaguar fighter-bombers.

United Arab Emirates

Senegal's Minister Arrives; Calls For Withdrawal

*JN3110202490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0640 GMT
31 Oct 90*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 31 Oct (WAKH)—Senegalese Foreign Minister Oumar Sy Seydina arrived in Abu Dhabi last night on a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] within the framework of a tour of a number of the region's countries.

In a statement to WAM upon arrival, the Senegalese foreign minister said that he was carrying a message for Emirian President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf dealing with the current Gulf crisis and the Islamic summit conference scheduled to be held in Dakar in January.

Asked if his country has plans to postpone the conference, the Senegalese minister denied the existence of such plans. He said Senegal is making the necessary arrangements to hold the conference on time and hopes that it will succeed. He added that his country does not want the conference to reflect the fragmentation of the Arab nation.

The Senegalese minister also said: We have come here to consult His Highness Shaykh Zayid and to listen to his important pieces of advice. He said the postponement of the conference will depend on the outcome of his current tour and the Islamic leaders' opinion, which, he said, he will convey to President Abdou Diouf following the current tour. He explained that if it is better to postpone the conference, it will be postponed. But, he added, what is important is that the conference should succeed when it is held.

Regarding his country's position on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the Senegalese foreign minister said that from the beginning, Senegal condemned the Iraqi invasion and annexation of Kuwait, asked Iraq to withdraw, stressed the need to restore the legitimate government in Kuwait under His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, and condemned holding hostages from various countries in Iraq.

He also said Senegal believes that Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait is the only way to bring about peace in the region and that following the withdrawal, the two countries can discuss any outstanding issue.

Delivers Message to Zayid

*JN0111132990 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic
0930 GMT 1 Nov 90*

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, United Arab Emirates [UAE] president, has received a written message from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf concerning current issues and the forthcoming Islamic summit conference, scheduled to convene in Dakar in January 1991.

The message was delivered by Seydina Oumar Sy, Senegal's foreign minister, during a meeting with his highness the president today.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, Foreign Ministry under secretary; Khamis Bitti al-Rumaythi, director of his highness the president's office; and Amadou Thiam, Senegal's non-resident ambassador to the UAE.

Iraqi Pullout 'Only Clear Solution' to Crisis

*JN0111152690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1440 GMT
1 Nov 90*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 1 Nov (WAKH)—The United Arab Emirates has affirmed once again that the solution of the crisis in the Gulf resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait is represented by the full and unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi forces and the return of the legitimate government to Kuwait under the leadership of its amir, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, in implementation of the clear resolutions issued by the Arab summit, the Security Council, and the United Nations.

In a statement issued today in response to recent calls and initiatives to convene an Arab meeting for finding a solution

to the crisis, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan said that any talk about an Arab solution will lead to entrenching the Iraqi occupation, prolonging the crisis, and stalling and postponing its solutions, and will open the way to dangerous developments that will cause more damage and catastrophes to the region, the Arab nation, and the world.

He said that the only clear solution to this crisis is withdrawal and reinstatement of the legitimate government. Whoever proposes any other solutions only serves the interests of the occupier for some personal reason. This is an unacceptable and rejected issue since it has become crystal clear that all attempts at contacts and negotiations with the Iraqi regime that have taken place over the past three months have failed, foremost of which are the Arab efforts that began before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and continued after it, and which did not receive any reaction from the Iraqi regime.

Shaykh Hamdan concluded that since we have not reached any positive results or anything definite so far, we see no benefit from talking about these vague initiatives regarding the Arab solution, after the whole world failed to convince the Iraqi president to withdraw from Kuwait and accept the return of the legitimate government. The Arab, Islamic, and international solution is there and is appropriate for realizing the withdrawal and retrieving the legitimate government to avert the region more destruction, catastrophe, and bloodshed.

Yemen

Council Issues Decrees on BP Oil Agreements

No. 17

*JN0111210690 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 1 Nov 90*

[Text] The chairman of the Presidential Council, taking cognizance of the agreement on the proclamation of the Republic of Yemen, the Republic of Yemen Constitution, and Republican Decree No. 1 of 1990, forming the Council of Ministers, and after the approval of the the Council of Ministers and the Presidential Council, decrees the following:

Article One:

Approval is granted to the agreement for partnership in oil production and its annexes A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and H signed in Sanaa on 20 October 1990 between the Government of the Republic of Yemen and the BP Petroleum Development Limited attached to this decree in the (Albu Pass) in the submerged area of the Red Sea.

Article Two:

This decree will be a valid law as of the date it is issued and will be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the presidential office in Sanaa on 13 Rabi' Thani 1411 of the Hegira, corresponding to 1 November 1990.

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the President Council;

Haydar Aby-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Council of Ministers.

No. 18

*JN0111211190 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 1 Nov 90*

[Text] The Chairman of the Presidential Council, taking cognizance of the agreement on the proclamation of the Republic of Yemen, the Republic of Yemen Constitution, and Republican Decree No. 1 of 1990, forming the Council of Ministers, and after the approval of the the Council of Ministers and the Presidential Council, decrees the following:

Article One:

Approval is granted to the agreement for partnership in oil production and its annexes A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and H signed in Sanaa on 20 October 1990 between the Government of the Republic of Yemen and the BP Petroleum Development Limited attached to this decree in the al-Barqa' area, Block Seven, Shabwah Governorate.

Article Two:

This decree will be a valid law as of the date it is issued and will be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the presidential office in Sanaa on 13 Rabi' Thani 1411 of the Hegira, corresponding to 1 November 1990.

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the President Council;

Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Council of Ministers.

No. 19

*JN0111211690 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 1 Nov 90*

[Text] The Chairman of the Presidential Council, taking cognizance of the agreement on the proclamation of the Republic of Yemen, the Republic of Yemen Constitution, and Republican Decree No. 1 of 1990, forming the Council of Ministers, and after the approval of the Council of Ministers and the Presidential Council, decrees the following:

Article One:

Approval is granted to the agreement for partnership in oil production and its annexes A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and H signed in Sanaa on 20 October 1990 between the Government of the Republic of Yemen and the BP Petroleum Development Limited attached to this decree in the 'Asakir area, Block Eight, the Shabwah Governorate.

Article Two:

This decree will be a valid law as of the date it is issued and will be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the presidential office in Sanaa on 13 Rabi' Thani 1411 of the hegira, corresponding to 1 November 1990.

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the President Council;

Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Speaker Criticizes 'Hostile Foreign Media'

*JN0111145490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 1 Nov 90*

[Excerpt] Brother Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, speaker of the Council of Representatives, has stated that the position taken by our country on the Gulf crisis, which rejects the foreign presence and seeks to keep a solution to the crisis within the Arab framework, is the position of the Yemeni people on the whole.

Speaking today at a press conference attended by local, Arab, and international media correspondents, the brother speaker of the Council of Representatives said that what is being propagated by some tendentious media aims at [words indistinct] Yemen's pan-Arab policy and undermining Yemeni unity and national [word indistinct]. He said this policy will not achieve its designs, because Yemen's national, unified position has never been as it is today.

The brother speaker of the Council of Representatives scoffed at the hostile foreign media by saying: These circles have wagered on shattering Yemeni unity. Thus, they have deliberately attempted to revive (?voices) so as to cast doubts about the democratic approach our country is experiencing under the wing of the Republic of Yemen.

Brother Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man asserted that the Council's next session will study a number of issues and laws, including the press law. The Council will also hold a discussion with the government on the topic of prices in general. Moreover, the Council will stress the issues that have already been drawn to the attention of the government in order to lay down a feasible plan to link the pricing policy and wages and salaries, taking into consideration all the elements of economy.

Answering press questions, the brother speaker touched on the austerity measures which the government should adopt in cooperation with all national and political forces. He said that this policy should first be implemented by state institutions whose consumption surpasses that of other sectors, especially as regards oil.

He also asserted the importance of the contribution of all political forces to devise an appropriate formula of

public national alliance, so as to establish the groundwork for a broad front which serves Yemen and its sons, especially under the current circumstances.

Speaking about the measures adopted against Yemeni expatriates in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and their connection to Yemen's position on the Gulf crisis, the speaker of the Council of Representative said: The Yemeni position on this crisis has been unequivocal; namely, that we oppose the foreign presence in the region and the use of force in resolving problems. He also said that we support resolving Arab problems within an Arab framework. He added: I believe that such a position does not warrant this enormous reaction of the brothers and this deliberate distortion of Yemen's position, especially after the realization of the great dream of Yemeni

unity and the true movement to firmly establish the foundations of democracy, which we believe constitute a major cause of these reactions.

Answering questions put to him by media correspondents, brother Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man also spoke about the activities of the Council of Representatives and its discussion of laws that were referred to it by the government. He said the Council tries to discuss questions according to their precedence upon receipt from the government. He asserted that the Council is eager to perpetuate democracy while discussing all issues, and that up until now, it has finalized about 15 state laws, thus embodying the ambitions of the Yemeni people in formulating a system that organizes the course of their life under the wing of the Republic of Yemen. [passage omitted]

Four U.S. Citizens Allowed To Leave Baghdad*JN0111175190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT
1 Nov 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Nov (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, has given orders allowing four U.S. citizens to leave Iraq, accompanied by the Arab-American reconciliation society delegation.

President Saddam Husayn's order is in response to a petition from the aforementioned society delegation, currently visiting the country.

The four U.S. nationals allowed to leave Iraq are: Randal Trineh, Dr. 'Abd-al-Hamid Khanji, Raymond Kalis, and Michael Boner. [names as received]

Salih Says Franco-USSR Pledge Would Free Hostages*PM0211151090 Paris LE FIGARO in French
1 Nov 90 p 4*

[Unnamed special correspondent dispatch on interview with National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih: "Equal Chances for War or Peace"]

[Text] Baghdad—Iraq could agree to dissociate the Gulf crisis from the other Middle East conflicts, provided its settlement falls within an Arab framework. National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih, who is also one of the seven current members of the Revolution Command Council, told us yesterday that an Arab plan "is preferable to any other if we want to resolve only the Gulf crisis. If we want to resolve all the Middle East problems, however, everybody must be involved." Mr. Salih explained that with regard to finding a solution Iraq is counting not so much on the Arab League as on the personal involvement of several heads of state in the region who are "leaders of the Arab nation."

However, he confirmed Iraq's rejection of the Arab plan put forward last weekend by Mr. Primakov, Mikhail Gorbachev's envoy. "Any approach which talks of Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait outside a comprehensive settlement is not right." Thus Sa'di Mahdi Salih regards the chances of peace and war as equal at present.

Message to Mitterrand and Gorbachev

The National Assembly speaker, entrusted by Saddam Husayn with "looking after the foreign guests" in Iraq, also confirmed to us that his country had proposed to release all the foreigners in exchange for a Franco-Soviet stance against war. "There was indeed such a message to Mr. Mitterrand and Mr. Gorbachev, and that reflects Iraq's real desire. We will allow other foreigners to leave as soon as we are sure that war is no longer imminent. When Bush announces that he will not use force, or when France and the Soviet Union guarantee the search for a political solution, we will be able to make such a decision. Our main hopes rest with France and the USSR, which we accept as interlocutors because they are objective in their search for a solution."

Saddam To Free Injured British Hostage*LD0111182290 London PRESS ASSOCIATION
in English 1734 GMT 1 Nov 90*

[Text] A British teenager injured in a car crash in which his brother died as they dashed to catch Edward Heath's flight to freedom is to be allowed home from Iraq by President Saddam Husayn, it was disclosed today.

Saddam, who is also freeing their father, made his decision known in a personal message to Mr. Heath.

Alexander Duncan, 21, a second year philosophy and theology student at Balliol College, Oxford, and an Iraqi security man were killed in the accident on the Kuwaiti side of the frontier with Iraq. Brother, Rory, 19 suffered spinal injuries and shock. The message from Saddam was relayed to Mr. Heath today through the Iraqi Embassy in London.

It said, "I wish to inform Mr. Heath that Rory Duncan will be allowed to leave Baghdad as soon as he is medically fit to travel, along with his father Bruce Duncan and also the body of his brother Alex who tragically died in a car crash along with an Iraqi security officer."

A spokesman for Mr. Heath said he welcomed the news. The two sons were in Kuwait visiting their parents and other relatives when the invasion came on August 2. The women of the family were among the first to be allowed to return to their Hampshire home.

It is understood the sons decided to stay in Kuwait with their father who came out of hiding when he heard of the accident.

Jasim Says Irish Free When Contracts Expire*NC0111212490 Paris AFP in English 2024 GMT
1 Nov 90*

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 1 (AFP)—Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim said Thursday that Irish nationals working here could leave Iraq at the expiration of their contracts.

His statements came as three Irish MPs [members of Parliament] were on their way to Baghdad to seek release of 220 Irish nationals trapped here and in Kuwait since Iraq invaded the emirate on August 2.

Among the 220 Irish nationals in Iraq and Kuwait is a group of Irish nurses working at IBN al-Bitar Hospital in Baghdad.

Asked at a press conference if the nurses, unlike other Irish women held here, could be authorised to leave for home, Mr. Jasim said: "In principle they can be, but since they are here under contract, they must be replaced by other nurses."

He stressed that the nurses had to honour their contract before leaving Iraq.

Some 4,000 Westerners and Japanese have been held in Iraq against their will since August 2, with many kept at

strategic sites as "human shields" to deter any attack by Western forces deployed in the Gulf region.

The unofficial Irish initiative has been criticised in Dublin by Prime Minister Charles Haughey, who said it conflicted with a decision by the European Economic Community to discourage private trips to Iraq to negotiate release of foreigners held there.

The three parliamentarians, David Andrews (of the ruling Fianna Fail party), Paul Bradford (Fine Gael) and Michael Higgins (Labour), said their mission was purely humanitarian.

They said they were due to meet several senior Iraqi Government officials and hoped for a meeting with President Saddam Husayn.

Assembly To Discuss Releasing Bulgarians

JN0111155190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1538 GMT
1 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Nov (INA)—The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has learned that His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has instructed the National Assembly speaker and members to discuss allowing the Bulgarian nationals hosted by Iraq to leave for their country or to stay in Iraq, if they so desire.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY also learned that the National Assembly will discuss the instructions of President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, during its fall session on Saturday.

Reaction to U.S, UK Comments on Holiday Visits

Minister 'Amazed' by Statements

JN0211103990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT
2 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA)—Commenting on statements made by U.S. and British officials over Iraq's desire to allow the families of foreigners hosted by Iraq to visit them—which discouraged those families from going to Baghdad—and their false allegations that Iraq will prevent these families from returning, Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY:

We are very amazed by those prejudiced and inhumane statements. On our part, we stress that Iraq keeps its word and is known for its values and for respecting its promises. Therefore, the families which will visit Iraq will be honored and treated with respect. They will be free to travel after they have met their relatives, and their meeting with them will take place in comfortable places. Iraq is also prepared to provide all the necessary services to make the families and their relatives comfortable and happy during the visits, and so that the families can be briefed on their relatives' conditions and the Iraqi generosity offered to those guests.

West Has 'Fear of Truth'

JN0211120790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1135 GMT
2 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA)—Commenting on U.S. State Department Spokesman Margaret Tutwiler's reaction yesterday to the statement issued the day before yesterday allowing the families of the foreign nationals hosted at some vital installations in Iraq to visit them during the Christmas and New Year's holidays, a responsible source at the Foreign Ministry told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY: The U.S. State Department's stand is in line with the language of escalation which has been marking Bush's statements for some time now and which is pushing things toward military aggression.

He added: The U.S. official reaction to this Iraqi humanitarian gesture to reunite families reflects the U.S. Administration's disdain of humanitarian values. This position agrees with that of its ally, Britain, in the campaign of falsehoods and lies against Iraq and reflects its fear of truth. The visits will confirm to those families the good treatment their relatives receive and this is what the governments of Washington and London fear.

The source stressed that Iraq has announced that it welcomes the families wishing to spend the holidays with their relatives, who are receiving good care from the Iraqi authorities until the threat of the U.S.-British military aggression against Iraq and the region disappears.

UK Comments Scored

JN0111194690 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1906 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has commented on the British Foreign Office reaction to yesterday's announcement granting permission to families of the foreign nationals hosted at some vital positions in Iraq to visit them during the Christmas and New Year's holidays. The responsible source said:

The British Foreign Office reaction to this announcement that expresses a humanitarian stand reflects the impudent colonialist mentality of dealing with things. The British authorities are accustomed to taking such positions toward any positive or humanitarian Iraqi stand, because our principled, positive, and humanitarian stands expose the colonialist British position and reveal the colonialist objectives of the British political and military campaign against Iraq.

The source welcomed the positions of a number of British families, who expressed their desire to visit Iraq despite this official stance of Thatcher's government.

Swiss Medical Supplies Arrive in Baghdad

JN0111215490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2146 GMT
1 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Nov (INA)—A special Iraqi Boeing 707 carrying 15.5 tons of Swiss medical supplies worth approximately \$9 million arrived in Baghdad this evening.

It is to be recalled that on 28 September the Swiss Government indicated its willingness to send medical supplies to Iraq on humanitarian grounds.

Major Explosion Reported at Military Base

LD0111184490 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] A big explosion at an Iraqi military base has caused immense damage to installations and equipment. However, the number of casualties is not known. The explosion occurred at (Kani Zil) military base in Sharazur region, in the southern part of Sulaymaniyah governorate, at the beginning of this week after a surprise visit by Saddam Husayn to the Sulaymaniyah region.

According to a press statement released by the Kurdistan Democratic Party in London, the explosion reflects the rising wave of rage both in the ranks of the military and among civilians, and their complete opposition to Saddam Husayn's policies. On the other hand the statement pointed out that the Iraqi regime has erected barbed wire along parts of the border between Iraq and its neighbors to stop soldiers of military corps fleeing abroad.

Paper Says State Will 'Never Submit to Threats'

JN0211102990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT
2 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has stressed that if it occurs, the crucial battle will be a series of battles, which means that the first shot in the aggression will be American but the last will definitely be Iraqi.

In an editorial today, the paper says: Iraq wants to achieve peace and avert the course of war. However, it will fight the confrontation against the U.S.-Atlantic invasion forces for the sake of the Arabs' rights and for the sake of dignity, freedom, sovereignty, and honor. Iraq will never submit to threats from any party and will not be terrorized by the U.S. military concentrations.

The paper adds: Any plan or scenario on paper—which Bush, Thatcher, the Zionist enemy, and the betrayers of the Arab nation are dreaming of executing in a "rapid and lightning" war—will never succeed. It will fail with the first shot on the battlefield. War is not only plans and complicated weapons. Rather, it is determination, belief, and courage in the first place and then comes the military power.

The paper stresses that the crucial battle will be strongly in favor of Iraq's army and people, who will enter the battle believing in the cause for which they fight. Therefore, they will have the determination and bravery to fight. In this, they will be supported by a major and advanced military power, which no one can underestimate, with an experience which no army in the world can match.

The paper concludes by saying: This is the general framework of the "crucial battle." Those Americans who

understand the Iraqis' determination and ability to stand fast must drown themselves in the details and surprises, in the hope that they may find the right way. They must also read, once again and very carefully, leader Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August to discover that the way to achieve peace and avert any bloodshed passes only through it.

Editorial Rules Out Limited Warfare

JN0211101590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT
2 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has stressed that there is no such thing as limited war, and that when it is sparked, it will usher in the beginning of a comprehensive war that will burn everything dear to the aggressors' camp all over the world—a comprehensive war that is unlimited both in time and place.

In an editorial today, the newspaper says: Day by day, it appears that the advocates of war in Washington, Tel Aviv, and London are captive to the big illusion that they can fight a "limited war" of the kind that can be planned on paper. If it takes place, the battle will be different from anything they have ever known: in its area; tools; and the military, technical, and moral resources of the other side and the ability and bravery of its fighters and the strength of their belief in what they defend and the cause they support.

The paper stresses that those who talk about a limited war that starts on such and such date and ends on such and such date are pushing themselves and their peoples and armies into a historic peril, which will inflict shame and defeat on them in a way never seen before in the history of wars.

The paper says: The U.S. imperialism and its allies, with the interests they have and the arenas over which they are stretched, are like a huge body. It is very easy to destroy the huge body when its nervous system is hit by a fatal blow. That huge body will then be cut into pieces and it will deteriorate, its prestige will diminish, and it will be trodden underfoot.

The paper goes on to say: The American aggression may start the next page of the military confrontation after it has exhausted the tools of economic and political warfare. However, it will not have the ability to determine the time, form, course, and the end of the battle because all of this will be determined by Iraq and its courageous army, which has completed its preparations to play its historic role in cutting to size and dwarfing the huge body of evil.

The paper adds: If, nowadays, the enemies see only the tip of the mountains and barricades of fire, what is not revealed of the resources of Iraq and those of the free men and revolutionaries who vowed to sacrifice in this historic battle is much greater than what they see and know. The precious parts of the enemy's interests—

whether those deposited in the Zionist entity, which is the advanced post for imperialism; in the oil wells, the target which they came to control and dominate; or in the agent lackey regimes whose roles were designed to serve the evil American-Zionist-British enemy—will be the haul, which the arm of Iraq and the arm of the faithful camp of freemen, heroes, and those who responded to the call of jihad, will reach, and not a single jewel will remain in the crown of new imperialism. Then the imperialists will lose all prestige.

The paper says: There is no such thing as limited war. When it is sparked, it will usher in the beginning of a comprehensive war that will burn everything dear to the aggressors' camp and all over the world—a comprehensive war that is unlimited both in time and place—and the advocates of the limited, lightning war will curse their luck. We now see the events of tomorrow just as we saw the events of yesterday. We will advance and advance, and we will not be satisfied with only deterring the aggression because our share in history dictates that we take out its teeth once and for all, free our sacred lands of its evils, and force it to pay the long overdue accounts.

Concluding, the paper stresses: When the lines are led by Saddam Husayn, the knight of the believers and the holder of the banner of victory, the evildoers will discover the grave mistake they made in their calculations, including the calculations for the limited war which will not find a place in the place and timing of the crucial battle. The response will be the comprehensive war against all parties of aggression, planners and executors, at the head of which is the head of the snake in Tel Aviv and its yellow tail, the betrayer of the two holy mosques and Husni and all those who associate and collude with evil.

Paper Says State Prepared To 'Meet the Enemies'

JN0211105390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0825 GMT
2 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has refuted the flimsy pretext Bush blared out about Iraq's American guests with the aim of aggravating the situation in the region and paving the way for an aggression against Iraq.

In an editorial headlined "We Will Not Submit to the Sinister Trend," the newspaper says: The big lie Bush told about the way the U.S. nationals in Iraq are being treated—a lie which is not substantiated by any evidence—expresses most accurately the U.S. Administration's premeditated aggressive intentions and embodies the fact that the United States is still pushing the situation in the region toward an explosion, using flimsy pretexts.

The newspaper adds: One of the basic problems of the U.S. president and some of his allies is that they imagine that they can impose their will and wicked aggressive imperialist trend on the Iraqi people and the Arab nation. They insist on ignoring our will, refuse to recognize our inalienable legitimate historical and national rights, and imagine that their concentrations, fleets, and

psychological warfare will weaken Iraq and force it to give up its historic accomplishment and eternal decision to regain its usurped southern part.

The paper emphasizes that Iraq seeks peace but rejects capitulation to the double U.S. standards in dealing with regional issues and people's rights. It also refuses to hold dialogue in the presence of the invading U.S. and foreign forces which are occupying the Arab land and desecrating the Muslims' sanctities. Iraq calls for the application of one standard to justly resolve all pending regional issues, headed by the Palestine question. Unless this issue is resolved and the Palestinians return to their land and establish their independent state, the other issues will not be resolved and the region will continue to face surprises and complicated crises.

The newspaper goes on to say: The big glaring fact which the enemies should take into account is that the people of Iraq and the Arab nation do not fear war because they are defending right, sovereignty, honor, and both present and future. They fight, hold out, and triumph because they refuse to succumb to the sinister trend. They are well aware of the fact that if they yield to the hostile trend and given in to threats they will lose everything. They will lose principles, rights, sovereignty, and honor. They will even lose their human quality.

Concluding, the newspaper says: The gathering belief in Iraq's leadership has completed its required preparations and it is in the highest degree of preparedness to meet the enemies, but these should know well that if aggression occurs they will find out that many of the things for which they invaded the region will not remain as they are. Neither the oil nor the Zionist entity, which they came to protect, will remain.

Minister Promises To Pay Departed Arab Workers

JN0111213690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1958 GMT
1 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Nov (INA)—Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Umid Midhat Mubarak has stated that the Ministry is obligated by law to meet its commitments toward all incumbent Arab workers in Iraq and those who have had to depart as a result of the U.S.-Zionist interference in the region.

Speaking to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY following a meeting with Mr. Hasan Hamam, secretary general of the the International Federation of Arab Workers, he said Iraq is bound by extant labor and social security laws and a decision made by the Revolution Command Council of 9 August.

Once the reasons that are holding up a settlement of the wages cease to exist, the Ministry will see to it that these laborers' rights are met, Mubarak said.

He confirmed a Finance Ministry official's announcement that Iraq will be ready to pay out Egyptian workers' remittances in Iraqi oil or any other commodity specified by the Egyptian side.

Alternatively, the Egyptian Government could make the payments in Egyptian pounds, and Iraq would be pay Egypt back in foreign currency, once the current compelling circumstances are over.

Saddam Discusses Issues With Senior Officials

JN0111125490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT
1 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has chaired a meeting attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]; several RCC members; the National Assembly speaker; and Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim.

The latest political and media developments in the region and the situation on the international scene were discussed during the meeting.

Arab Workers Arrive in Baghdad for Conference

JN3110204290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT
31 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Oct (INA)—Delegations representing Arab workers arrived in Baghdad today to take part in the activities of the ninth general conference for the General Federation of Workers' Union, which begins tomorrow, Thursday, in Baghdad.

Muhammad Bahij, head of the Moroccan workers' delegation; 'Abd-al-Majid al-Sahrawi, head of the national committee for the support of Iraq in the fraternal Moroccan country; Nuri al-Hashshawi, head of the Libyan Federation of Production and Handicrafts; and Muhammad Abu-Zayd, secretary general of the Libyan Federation's foreign relations department, have all arrived in Baghdad.

Ramadan Addresses Conference

JN0111165490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT
1 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 1 Nov (INA)—Meetings of the ninth conference of the General Federation of Trade Unions began in Baghdad today.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister delivered a speech in which he said: Your ninth conference is convening while our Arab nation is experiencing the highest levels of the awakening of the pan-Arab conscience, which was stirred by its pan-Arab battle of destiny in the great battle that began on 2 August when the ground cleaved asunder under the Croesus of Kuwait and Iraq returned to what it had been throughout history—a country extending from Zakho to the sea—and

restored its true map, contrary to the map drawn by the British colonialists and wished for by the imperialists. This decisive battle is that of the liberation of Palestine and the restoration of holy Jerusalem. Since the beginning of the battle, Palestine, as a people and a cause, has been present. It is not a coincidence that the heroic stone-throwing people in occupied Palestine have been the first to voice their support for Iraq.

He added: It is the beginning of the battle of the comprehensive liberation of the nation. It is a battle between the Arab nation and its strategic depth, represented by the Islamic world and the world's free men, honest people, and the poor ones; and U.S. imperialism, its allies, and agents. [passage omitted]

Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed that the motives of American imperialism and the Atlantic military campaign on the Arabian Peninsula and the Arab Gulf have not been a reaction to Kuwait's uprising and the return of the branch to the origin. Rather, in its essence and strategic dimensions the campaign is an extension of the hostile position to Iraq's brave confrontation of the imperialist ambitions and the Zionist expansion. The campaign is also against what Iraq has achieved in the fields of scientific advancement and military industrialization, its strong, triumphant emergence from the eight-year war, the support it has been offering to the Palestinian revolution mujahidin, its rejection of any subservience in its international relations, and its continuous insistence on establishing just and balanced relations between the north and the south and on ending the greed and exploitation of the imperialist American monopolies and their plundering of Arab wealth and funds to use them to carry out an aggression against the Arabs and to keep them living a life of backwardness, hunger, and poverty.

He pointed out that these victories have angered America and Zionism. Therefore, they conspired with their agents in the region, foremost of whom are the betrayer of the two holy mosques and agent Husni [Mubarak], who are satisfied with turning the land of Arabism and holy places in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] into a headquarters and passageway for troops of the American-Zionist invaders to desecrate the Muslims' Kaaba and the tomb of the great Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him.

He said that the real intention of the foreign invasion is to implement the aggressive American scheme to control oil wells and vital waterways, and to exert pressure on the Iraq of victory and liberation. He added that hiding behind the international legitimacy and the resolutions of the United Nations and the Security Council are false catchwords, for America and its ally, Britain, have adopted several hostile measures against Iraq before 2 August, among which are the economic blockade, the unjust media campaign, and the prevention of exporting food and raw material since last March. [passage omitted]

The first deputy prime minister pointed out that Iraq's hosting of some foreigners is a humanitarian action and

a moral initiative that serve peace and contributes to averting war, and that those who speak about Iraq's guests, of those whose states have participated in occupying the holy land in Najd and Hejaz and in imposing the economic blockade against Iraq, have not said anything about the fate of 18 million Iraqis and about the illegal and inhuman measures that were adopted against them. He added: They did not speak about the siege imposed on the Palestinian people, denying the intifadah people food and medicine, and the brutal crimes that are being perpetrated daily by the Zionists in holy Jerusalem and all the occupied Arab territories. He said: We, the sons of Arabism, and the free men of the world were bereaved by the hideous massacre perpetrated by the Zionist occupation troops in holy al-Haram al-Sharif in which tens of people were martyred and hundreds were wounded when their chests, full of faith, confronted the treacherous bullets of the Zionist occupation troops. He stressed that this abominable crime is a continuation of the Zionist crimes that are supported and blessed by America, and that it constitutes further proof of the hostility of Zionism to all human values, its violation of the international laws, norms, and legitimacy, and its refusal to respond to the resolutions issued by the United Nations and the Security Council. The Zionist entity, which is supported by America and Britain, must realize that no matter how many crimes it would perpetrate against our people in the occupied territories, Iraq, which dealt a strong blow to imperialism and Zionism, stands with all its resources and capabilities to support the Palestine question and to liberate the occupied Arab territories. Today's Iraq—Saddam Husayn's Iraq—whose concern now is to protect the nation's honor, the homeland's dignity, and the sanctities, will pursue the victorious march until great victory and comprehensive liberation. This is because the grouping of the believers does not stop, but it always advances forward.

Ramadan affirmed that Iraq is a peace-loving country that works sincerely and adopts realistic measures to achieve peace, and that it hates war and seeks to avert war as much as it can, because it is aware of the dimensions of wars and their catastrophes, and realizes the importance of peace and stability. He said that Iraq's peaceful stands toward resolving the region's problems are clear, and were crowned by President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative. This courageous initiative is based on heavenly laws, and on right, justice, and the true laws of the international legitimacy, and not on the false and aggressive American laws. He added that America's rejection of this initiative proves its colonialist, expansionist policy which was embodied by its occupation of Najd and Hejaz, and thus is in harmony with the Zionists' policy of expansion and occupation of the Arab territories in Palestine, the Golan Heights, and Lebanon. This policy proves America's rejection of peace and of the return of territories and wealth to their legitimate owners, he added. [passage omitted]

DFLP's 'Abd-Rabbuh Voices Support, Departs

JN0111133290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2110 GMT
31 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Oct (INA)—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, assistant secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), and the accompanying delegation left Baghdad today after a visit of several days to Iraq. In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS SERVICE, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh affirmed that the Palestinian people, with all their factions, today stand on the side of the people of Iraq and its leader President Saddam Husayn in their confrontation against the brutal imperialist-Zionist onslaught they are facing until a splendid victory is achieved, with God's help, and all invaders are expelled from the holy land of the Arabs.

Ramadan Meets Arab Research Official

JN0111072690 Baghdad INA in English 1415 GMT
31 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 31, INA—Member of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) and First Deputy Premier Taha Yassin Ramadan received today Secretary General of the Federation of Arab Research Councils Dr. Taha Tayih al-Ni'aymi.

During the meeting, Mr. Ramadan confirmed that Iraqi and Arab creative brains could break the foreign monopoly on science.

Mr. Ramadan shed light on the scientific progress the scientists of the military industrialization attained, referring to President Saddam Husayn's incessant support for all scientific and technological activities and innovations in Iraq.

The RCC member stressed Iraq's stance in backing Arab federations and organizations of different specializations as a step towards realizing the Arab masses' aspirations on the road to the Arab nation's revival.

Dr. Al-Ni'aymi reviewed the Federation's action and future plans and expressed high appreciation of Iraq's support for the Federation's activities and the role it played in developing the scientific research sector.

Saddam Congratulates Algeria on National Day

JN0111120490 Baghdad INA in English 1150 GMT
1 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 1 INA—President Saddam Husayn sent today a congratulation telegram to President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria on the occasion of the national day of his country wishing him good health and happiness, prosperity and every progress for the people of Algeria.

In the telegram, President Husayn hailed the heroic stances of the Algerian people in facing all aggression forms and in defending freedom, dignity and independence principles.

Comparison of Tokyo TV Interview With Saddam
JN2610101490

Baghdad INA in Arabic at 0745 on 26 Oct carries the "text" of an interview of President Saddam Husayn by Tokyo NHK General Television on 20 October. This has been compared with the Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese version published in the 23 October Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, pages 21-25, and found to be identical, except for the following variation:

Page 22, column one, paragraph seven, sentence four reads: ...conditions attached [new graf] [Husayn] As you know, now, the whole of Kuwait is part of Iraq. We are not standing on only one part of Kuwait in a manner that would make the administrative division give such an impression. We had previously amended the administrative division for the governorates in the country [Iraq]. For example, the Governorate of Kuwait was only a district [qada'] when it was separated by the English. The grandfather of those who ruled Kuwait until 2 August was its administrative officer. Kuwait used to be part of

the Governorate of al-Basrah, which was then known as the Province [wilayat] of al-Basrah, when it was separated. Kuwait was within a wall. When we discussed the issue, some of our comrades suggested that Kuwait should return as a district in the Governorate of al-Basrah, as it used to be before, and that the district's administrative borders should not go beyond the old wall, which surrounded it before it was separated. However, the majority in the leadership thought that we should set up a new governorate, called the Governorate of Kuwait, and that the old city of Kuwait should be renamed Kazimah. Therefore, it is only an administrative division that has nothing to do with what you are asking about. If the case you are asking about was our concern, we would have kept Kuwait within the original borders it had when it was separated from the Province of al-Basrah and within the wall that used to surround it. [new graf] [Terauchi] You have... (rewording)

Column two, paragraph four, sentence four reads...all generations [new graf] [Hirayama] Does this include the State of Israel under certain circumstances? [new graf] [Husayn] I will... (clearing indistinct words, rewording)

Levi Returns From Paris, Discusses Meetings

TA0111200790 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has said that the French leaders with whom he had met this week, and particularly President Mitterrand, made positive remarks about Israel, sometimes more positive than those made by the Americans. President Mitterrand told him, for instance, that he had never referred to Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza as occupied territories, which he views as disputed territories.

The foreign minister returned from Paris tonight. At a news conference at Ben-Gurion Airport, our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Halperin asked him, among other things, about the difficulties in obtaining U.S. guarantees for a loan for the absorption of immigration. The foreign minister lashed out against the criticism leveled in Israeli circles regarding the letter of assurances he had given the Americans. Here is an excerpt from his remarks:

[Begin Levi recording] We are not obliged to take this loan; no one is forcing it on us. We reached an understanding with the Americans, a fine understanding. No commitment was given that differs from the commitments we have been making yearly since Begin's government to this very day. If they seek information of any kind, I tell my colleagues and everyone else this: Our two governments are linked in many ways, such as in routine information exchange, economic aid, and updates in numerous spheres. If they want to know formally, they can know without me. I do not understand: Do people here think we are in the underground, dealing with obscure matters? I tell all those who think they are greater patriots than David Levi, who is supposed to be this and that: I will not join this hassle. Suffice it to say that they wake up and comprehend the extent of damage they are causing us with their polemics. [end recording]

Arens on Gulf Crisis, Dialogue With Palestinians

TA0211103290 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
2 Nov 90 p 9

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Avi Bnayahu in Arens' office in Tel Aviv on 1 November]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Bnayahu] In the course of the talks you hold with Palestinians in the territories you have refrained from meeting those figures known as the "national leadership," some of whom are concentrated in East Jerusalem. Why have you not met with Faysal al-Husayni for example?

[Arens] As defense minister, I am responsible for the Arab populace in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. I am not responsible for the Arab population of Jerusalem. These people are citizens of the State of Israel. I am trying to establish a dialogue with the Palestinian residents of the territories and also with influential members of that population. I speak with the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and not with the residents

of Jerusalem, just as I do not have contacts with the townspeople from Nazareth.

[Bnayahu] Over the past few months you have stopped holding talks in the territories, probably due to the crisis in the Gulf; will you resume them now?

[Arens] I will certainly continue them. I believe that one of the most important steps we must take now is to establish dialogue and contact. This is proof that we are not ignoring the population, its problems, and its aspirations.

[Bnayahu] The Iraqi Army has been on high alert for the last two days, in accordance with Saddam Husayn's orders. The superpowers' reactions to events in the Gulf have also become more agitated. How do you estimate the chances (or dangers) of war breaking out?

[Arens] This possibility certainly exists. The United States has concentrated very large aerial and ground forces in the Gulf. Saddam Husayn, for his part, is showing no signs of willingness to withdraw from Kuwait.

[Bnayahu] Does the military option now loom closer than ever, in light of your previous statements?

[Arens] I do not want to say that it is closer than ever, and I do not want to indulge in speculations, but we have heard the U.S. President state his determination to achieve his goals.

[Bnayahu] Is it the current evaluation that Saddam Husayn will try to attack Israel in the initial stages of a war?

[Arens] You have to hear Saddam Husayn himself. His spokesman spoke of that possibility, and we are taking it into account.

[Bnayahu] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has been on a state of high alert for exactly three months. Is our Army built and deployed to withstand such a period of readiness, or will this in the long run cause wear and tear?

[Arens] The IDF is up to it. There is no problem, but it does cost money.

Milo Announces Plans To Restructure Police

TA0211101890 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 2 Nov 90 p 1

[Report by Ron Kampeas]

[Text] Police Minister Roni Milo announced last night that "after studying the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Zamir commission [investigating the 8 October Temple Mount events], I have decided that it is necessary to restructure the police." This will include changes in senior personnel.

"There will be a special emphasis on domestic security in general, and in Jerusalem in particular," the minister said.

Milo's reliance on the report's "findings," "conclusions," and formal "recommendations" sounds an ominous note for three top police officers: Inspector-General Ya'akov Turner, Southern District Commander Rahamim Comfort and Jerusalem Area Commander Arye Bibi.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 2 November reports that Milo "yesterday announced that he is not making personnel changes," but that "structural changes are to be carried out to improve police performance." The report goes on to say that "while none of the top brass is expected to lose his job, a reshuffle is expected."]

The commission criticized Turner, Comfort and Bibi, and Milo appears ready to use these findings to shake up the top brass.

Milo has also come under pressure from left-wing and haredi [zealot] MKs [Knesset members] to push Turner out. There have been reports that the haredi parties are anxious to see Turner go, because of his probe of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] leader Arye Der'i.

Ministry sources have said that some of the report's tactical suggestions are already being implemented. A new riot-control unit, the Gideons, is being converted into the special Old City elite force recommended by the report. A senior police officer is drawing up plans for a barbed-wire fence to separate the Mount from the Western Wall plaza.

Milo may allow the top brass to save face by using a months-old plan to change Jerusalem's status from one of 11 police areas to one of five, more important and larger, districts.

By creating a new district, Milo could name a new district commander—Southern District deputy chief Dan Ohad has been mentioned—and keep Bibi on in a lesser position in Jerusalem. Similarly, with Jerusalem taken out of his mandate, Comfort, who is due to retire April 1, could remain in charge of a shrunken Southern District.

UN Recommendation on Territories Rejected

TA0211085690 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
2 Nov 90 p 1

[Report by Miryam Fuchs and Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpts] The only recommendation offered by the UN secretary general in the report he submitted to the Security Council last night in the wake of the Temple Mount events is that the Council consider convening the representatives of all the countries that signed the Geneva Convention in order to discuss possible measures to protect the Palestinians in the territories. [passage omitted]

Reacting to the secretary general's report, authoritative Jerusalem sources said last night that Israel will reject

any UN attempt to undermine Israel's exclusive responsibility for security in the territories.

The sources added that the report "reawakens" a long-standing legal dispute between Israel and the international community regarding the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to the territories. At the same time, Jerusalem is still hoping that the United States would in effect block any UN move that could lead to steps against Israel.

Yosi Ahime'ir, the director of the prime minister's bureau, said last night that "those who preach to Israel about maintaining security in the territories are taking the easy way out." He added that Israel "is doing everything" to care for the well-being of the civilians under its rule, and that if a sense of security is missing, that stems from the violent acts of Arabs against Israelis and against their own kin.

The secretary general's comments on the Temple Mount are also out of line, said Ahime'ir. Israel has its own comprehensive and authoritative report on the events; it does not need the "fabricated Supreme Muslim Council report" or remarks by other parties.

Political sources have reported that the secretary general's proposal is unprecedented. They noted that last year the United States prevented a PLO attempt to "erase" Israel's signature from the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Israel has always claimed that even though it implements the convention in effect, it still does not officially acknowledge the applicability of the convention to the territories.

The legal status of those areas is questionable, which is why they cannot be termed "occupied territories," as the expression in the convention implies.

This position is unacceptable to the rest of the world, and Jerusalem officials expect a clash on the matter in the next few weeks.

Alignment Faction Submits No-Confidence Motion

TA3110200890 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1900 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] The Alignment Knesset faction today submitted a motion of no confidence in the government in light of its inability to provide housing for new immigrants. In so doing, the Alignment has joined the Citizens Rights Movement, the United Workers Movement [MAPAM], and Shinuy, which had submitted similar motions earlier. Our Knesset correspondent reports that tension is mounting in the Knesset as the date for the vote on these motions, next Monday, approaches. Agudat Yisra'el, which has four Knesset members [MK's], has not yet joined the coalition. Agudat Yisra'el Chairman MK Moshe Ze'ev Feldman today told our correspondent that as things stand right now, Agudat Yisra'el is under no obligation to vote for the government.

Commentator Notes Seriousness of Shamir Warnings

TA0211121490 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
2 Nov 90 p B1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "Take Him Seriously"]

[Text] Since the Gulf crisis started, not a week has gone by without the prime minister warning Saddam Husayn against attacking Israel; and the warnings get harsher with time. When a red line is drawn, the timeframe for reaction to the crossing of that line is not always clear. This is not the case with Shamir's warnings: It is clear from them that a harsh reaction will come, one way or another, very close to its cause. There is no vagueness here. The prime minister has made a harsh and clear commitment on behalf of Israel. A situation has developed so that if Israel does not act on its warnings, it could lose its power of deterrence and turn into a paper tiger.

There was a time when one could think that Shamir is only letting himself talk freely, and that the warnings were made primarily for internal consumption, to calm the public. It has become apparent, however, that they are made with a sober mind and are premeditated. I suggest that Shamir's remarks on this matter be taken very seriously. Even if leaders often tend to make off-hand warnings, in this case it is important that enemies as well as friends carefully listen to them. Jordan and Iraq, as well as the United States, had better understand the picture well.

This is not a case of a nervous General Staff urging on the government, as before the Six Day War. More than any government before it, this one tends not to disregard attacks. The current Shamir government is more extreme than the one that decided to go to war in Lebanon. Menahem Begin's second cabinet was different than the first, which was manned by Dayan, Weizman, and Yadin. During the tenure of the second cabinet all brakes were lost, and Sharon became the determining force. Other extremists, such as Refa'el Eytan and Yuval Ne'eman, were added to the current government. This lineup tends to adopt extreme positions, make harsher reactions, and consider the United States less.

Thomas Pickering, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, recently said that it is every government's duty to protect its citizens. Neither Shamir's government, nor any other Israeli Government, can avoid taking severe action if many of its citizens are hurt. The pressure for it will come from the masses. The only difference is that Shamir's government will be less patient and will not wait for others to defend Israel's citizens. He who fails to coordinate with Israel in advance on how to react to such an attack will probably not be able to coordinate positions once the fire starts.

At this stage there is no Iraqi threat to Israel's existence. As far as we know, Iraq does not have nuclear weapons. This, however, is not enough. It is obvious that Israel will in no way tolerate a chemical weapons attack that could

cause numerous fatalities to its civilian population. The use of gas against Israel also carries symbolism, a reminder of the holocaust.

That is why such a painful attack could make Israel lose all its inhibitions and restraints. Whoever expects a routine Israeli reaction to such a situation will find himself wrong. It is worth mentioning the claim the Arabs made in the past, that chemical weapons are meant to counterbalance nuclear weapons. They were warned that the situation could be different: The use of chemical weapons could amplify a terrible reaction, not neutralize it.

The military problem facing Israel in the case of such an attack is quite complex. Israel will certainly order the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to do everything it can to prevent the attack from taking place. Israel cannot afford a repeat of the Iranian affair, where missile attacks lasted for many weeks, in the course of which more than 180 surface-to-surface missiles hit Iranian cities, 135 on Tehran alone. The last thing Israel wants is a war of cities, as the Iran-Iraq war was. Israel will also have to decide how to deal with Jordan if it tries to foil Israel's defensive moves against the Iraqis.

There is another issue to which Israel has always been particularly sensitive—its deterrent capability. Military circles have always maintained that if the Arabs cross a certain barrier of fear, nothing would stop them from heavier attacks on Israel. If they fire missiles at Israel and it does not react, much worse will follow. This means that any Iraqi attack on Israel will not only be considered from the aspect of the damage it causes, but also with regard to the level of deterrence Israel's reaction would yield.

It is only natural for Israel to wish to restore its deterrent capability quickly. This means that a serious blow to Israel would require a much more massive and drastic reaction to deter the other side. A country that has to plan its strategy this way will find it hard to consider moral and international constraints very much.

Is the Iraqi leader taking all this into account? It is hard to tell. Some believe that Saddam is aware of this because he must have received messages from Israel, in various ways, that Israel's warnings are serious. There are reports claiming that he knows Israel will be unable to avoid reacting harshly if it is hurt.

Commentary Analyzes Baker's Bypass of Jerusalem

TA0211110890 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
2 Nov 90 p B1

[Commentary by Dan Margalit: "Makes a Point of Skipping Over Us"]

[Text] In all of the Likud's 13 years in power, not a single prophet of doom of the opposition warned the government that the day would come when a U.S. secretary of state would dare skip over Israel while on a tour of the

Middle East. No one could conceive of such nonsense. It really could not happen—until this morning, when reality went beyond all imagination, and James Baker's plane hovered over the area while staying outside of Israel's airspace.

This is the second time. In his previous tour, his skipping Jerusalem was portrayed as an exception resulting from the state of emergency on the Iraq-Kuwait border and the urgency of the Gulf crisis. Now everyone is getting used to it.

The government does not know how to deal with the further deterioration in its relations with Washington. It looks as if it prefers to miss every opportunity for a dialogue. At first, it had hoped that President Hayim Herzog could somewhat calm George Bush's rage, but when their meeting, planned for mid-November, was canceled by the Americans, the government felt that it was just as well. In any event, Herzog did not have a good argument with which to defend the harsh stand of Shamir, who hurried to reject Bush's address to him, and has been diligently turning friendly UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar into a hostile figure.

The cabinet ministers are hiding their heads in the sand. Some maintain that it is better this way, because when Baker arrives at Ben-Gurion Airport, he will again reiterate his demands that a UN delegation be sent to Jerusalem, and that he be briefed on the settlement issue. Israel's reaction is to turn its face away. It is more convenient that Baker is not coming, arguing, or preaching to it.

In the U.S.-Israeli partnership there are still some untorn threads. A joint effort is being made to hide some of the crisis from curious, peeping neighbors. Washington innocently claimed that Baker will avoid visiting Israel, not as an expression of rage or as a punishment, but to appease the Arab coalition supporting the United States against Saddam Husayn. The Israeli Government—which for understandable reasons does not want to appear as the neglected spouse—confirms that this indeed is the reason for Baker's rejecting its invitation.

This is a false show by both Jerusalem and Washington. The Americans know all too well that Husni Mubarak, Hafiz al-Asad, and King Fahd have no choice but to stick with them in the ongoing siege of Iraq. Their stay in power is dependent on the U.S. success. They are not even considering the option of quitting the anti-Iraqi coalition as a reaction to Baker's visit to Israel.

The real distinction here is between the terms "because" and "despite." Shamir would like the citizens of Israel to believe that Baker is skipping over them because of the Gulf crisis; while Bush has made it clear that his secretary of state will not come to Jerusalem despite its appropriate policy on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti issue.

The U.S. message is that even in the midst of its gearing up to face Saddam, Washington will not tolerate the mischievous behavior of the Jerusalem Government:

neither its tailored report on the Temple Mount incident, nor the farce of the Israeli Government taking-but-not-taking it upon itself to report to the United States about its investments in the settlements.

It is impossible to notify President Bush that David Levi pledged to report on the settlements, but that Yitzhaq Shamir disregards his foreign minister. To add insult to injury, the newly arrived Ambassador in Washington was forced to calm the listeners of IDF Radio by saying that the United States is a democracy that understands the meaning of pluralism and differences of opinions—as if to say that in a democracy a government does not have to speak in a single voice.

Now Baker made Shamir stop his acting and add his commitment to David Levi's signature. The prime minister can no longer tell Tehiya, Tzomet, and the religious parties that the foreign minister acted on his own accord, and that he will ignore him. The double-talk disappeared, and now Shamir is committed on behalf of all of his coalition partners.

The Americans no longer allow the Shamir government to enjoy vagueness, a lack of clarity, and ambiguity. They are making it face reality. By turning his back on us, Baker is bringing closer the day when the government will have to stop dreaming and start dealing with facts. It will have to determine and make clear to itself what part of its political plan cannot be implemented. As Talleyrand once wittingly said: "Define the impossible and start cooperating with it."

U.S., Egyptian Acts Viewed as Interference

TA0211091090 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
2 Nov 90 p 2

[Report by Avner Regev]

[Text] The Egyptian ambassador to Israel, in coordination with U.S. diplomats and with Israel's tacit consent, has been working to form a delegation of Palestinians from the territories to come out with an expression of support for Egypt and its positions on the Gulf crisis.

Senior political sources in Jerusalem have expressed surprise that similar activity is being conducted among Israeli Arabs. They regard this as an attempt by the Egyptians and the Americans to interfere in Israel's internal affairs and to view the entire Arab population west of the Jordan River as one Palestinian entity.

Rishon Leziyyon Man Stabbed; Assailant Flees

TA0111071090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0600 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Report by police affairs correspondent 'Ido Baum]

[Text] A 48-year-old Israeli citizen who owns a car garage was attacked this morning when he arrived at his shop on Shapira Street in the Rishon Leziyyon industrial zone. The assailant stabbed him in the chest and back

with a knife and then ran away, probably on foot. The victim suffered moderate wounds and was taken to Wolfson Hospital in Bat Yam. His life is not in danger.

Large police forces belonging to the Rishon Leziyyon Police are currently combing the area in an effort to apprehend the assailant. Arabs in the area are being held for questioning. The victim apparently managed to provide a description of the assailant. A police commander told us that the attack seems to have been made for nationalistic motives. Large police forces were sent to sites in the Rishon Leziyyon area where Arab laborers gather for work in order to prevent riots and attempts by Jews to attack Arabs and vice versa.

Further Reportage on Uprising Incidents

30, 31 Oct

TA3110124290

[Editorial report] Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 31 October, in a page 3 report by Oren Kohen, Shraga Zeiger, Mikhal Qedem, and ITIM, writes: "Masked individuals yesterday assassinated Rafah resident Khalil Hasan al-Majar, 45. He was shot twice in the head. The Rafah strike committee, which has assumed responsibility for the murder, claimed that al-Majar was a collaborator."

"Fu'ad 'Abdallah from the al-Shati' refugee camp was repeatedly stabbed by masked men and seriously wounded. Fatah strike committees have assumed responsibility for the attack. 'Abdallah, who is believed to be a collaborator, was stabbed twice in the past by masked men. He was transferred to Gaza's al-Shifa' Hospital."

"Ibrahim Khan Duqah (45), a photographer from Gaza, was shot and gravely wounded by masked individuals yesterday afternoon." "He was taken to al-Shifa' Hospital in critical condition. Duqah was also attacked one year ago for collaborating with the authorities."

The report adds: "Security sources reported that 321 Palestinians have been murdered by residents of the territories from the beginning of the intifadah up to last Thursday [25 October], including 33 murdered in lockup facilities. In the same period, 991 Palestinians were wounded in attacks by territories residents."

"The expansion of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] base in the Jabalyah refugee camp involved the demolition of the UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] employment center for the blind."

"Another UNRWA establishment, a center for battered wives, will soon be demolished for the same purpose. The demolition of the buildings has caused much rancor in the camp, whose residents are now attempting to obstruct the Army works."

"The Civil Administration said in reaction: 'The expansion, which is under way due to security concerns,

includes the UNRWA buildings. We will discuss this issue with UNRWA factors in the future.'"

Writing on page A1 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 31 October, Eytan Rabin, Nadav Shragay, and Yizhar Be'er report: "Nine residents were wounded in yesterday's incidents in the Gaza Strip. Palestinian sources reported increasing ferment in the entire Strip, but mainly in refugee camps."

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 31 October, in a report by Jon Immanuel, Ron Kampeas, Michael Rotem, Larry Derfner, and agencies on pages 1 and 10, reports that in the village of Sinjil, "the IDF demolished houses belonging to three members of gangs which attacked and killed alleged informers."

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0730 GMT on 31 October reports that "last night, an IDF reservist was slightly injured in the leg when shots were fired at a foot patrol in Gaza City. Other reservists fired at the attackers, but no Palestinian casualties were reported. The wounded reservist was taken to Barzilai Hospital in Ashqelon."

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0930 GMT on 31 October reports: "The Nabulus home of the Arab who attacked an oil tanker guard yesterday has been sealed by the security forces." The report adds that "the IDF imposed a curfew on the Tulkarm District village of Sartah, after a Molotov cocktail was thrown at an Israeli vehicle there yesterday." No damage was caused.

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 31 October, in a page 6 report by Muhammad Khalilah, writes that "23-year-old Walid Husayn from Baqa al-Gharbiyyah was sentenced to one year in prison and two years suspended" for throwing a large stone at a police vehicle inside the Green Line.

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 31 October, in a page A9 report by Hadas Manor, writes: "Armored Corps Sergeant David Shemesh was sentenced yesterday to one month in prison and demotion to the rank of private" for abuses against Palestinians.

31 Oct

TA0111135190

[Editorial report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 1 November carries a report by Matthew Seriphs and Jon Immanuel on page 10 with updates on 31 October's events in the territories. The report says: "A Palestinian truck driver was seriously wounded when troops at a checkpoint near Ansar II prison on Gaza's beachfront opened fire at him after he refused police orders to halt in al-Shaykh 'Ajlin, two km south of the checkpoint. The man's 12-year-old brother was slightly injured."

"In the West Bank, troops pursued masked youths in Dhannabah, near Tulkarm, and believing them to be armed, opened fire and wounded two. Four more were

captured with guns that turned out to be toys, military sources said. The wounded youths were said to be in satisfactory condition, local sources said.

"Mutih al-Hajj, 19, from Jalqamus, near Janin, died in Ramallah Hospital from wounds sustained when he was shot by soldiers on September 10. His funeral attracted hundreds who raised Palestinian flags and pictures of Yasir 'Arafat, Arab sources said.

"In Hebron, troops demolished the house of Kamal Hasan Amrishi who was charged with belonging to a Fatah group, which killed an Arab policeman last December, military sources said."

In an unattributed report on the same page of the same edition, Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English adds: "Nine Palestinians were murdered and 12 wounded by fellow Palestinians during the week of October 19 to 25, making it a record week for such crimes, security sources said yesterday.

"In addition, an Israeli Arab from Jaljulyah, serving a sentence at Shatta Prison, was murdered there during the same period, apparently after being suspected of cooperating with the authorities.

"During the three years of intifada, 321 Palestinian residents have been murdered by other Palestinians to date, the sources said. Of this number, 33 were detainees murdered by other prisoners. Another 991 Palestinians were wounded in internecine attacks."

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 1 November carries a report saying: "Last night the security forces demolished the house of 'Umar Sa'id Abu-Sirhan, who is suspected of murdering three Jews on 21 October in the Baq'a neighborhood of Jerusalem. The house in the village of 'Ubaydiyyah was demolished after the Supreme Court rejected the family's appeal against the demolition."

The report adds that "last night, a short time after midnight, a homemade bomb was found near the settlement of 'Omarim. An Army patrol dismantled it and searched the area.

"A bomb was thrown at an Army lookout post in Hebron City last night. It exploded but caused no damage or casualties."

"Last night the security forces sealed the house of a Nabulus resident who was a member of a local group that belonged to the Islamic Resistance Movement."

1 Nov

TA0211104690

[Editorial report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 2 November, in a report by Jon Immanuel on page 18, says that "a 24-year-old man from the Tulkarm refugee camp yesterday died of wounds sustained when he was shot by a military patrol the day before" in Dhannabah.

Immanuel also reports: "In Silat al-Harithiyah, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] closed the local secondary school for an indefinite period following clashes between troops and pupils, Palestinian sources said. The school had been reopened earlier in the morning, after a two-week closure, they said."

Immanuel also notes that "military sources confirmed curfews in the villages of Rantis, Biddu, Bayt Sira, the Tulkarm [refugee] camp, Nabulus and surrounding [refugee] camps, Sartah, and 'Awja', near Jericho, where a small bomb exploded yesterday."

Ron Kampeas, reporting on the same page of the same issue of THE JERUSALEM POST, writes: "The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a district court sentence sending a 17-year-old girl to 20 months in prison for attacking Border Police with petrol bombs." The girl is from Silwan. He also reported: "Three bottles of acid were tossed at a Border Police lookout in East Jerusalem yesterday. Only one exploded, but hurt no one."

Tel Aviv HADASHOT, in a report by Shraga Zeiger, Oren Kohen, and Batya Feldman on page 2 on 2 November, says: "Leaflets were distributed throughout the Gaza Strip yesterday, saying that the Islamic Jihad is behind the shooting at the IDF patrol at the Asqula [place name as published] neighborhood of Gaza yesterday, in which reservist Leonid Goldschmidt was wounded. The operation was termed military and was described as a reaction to the Temple Mount massacre and to Minister Arens' remarks about the Islamic Jihad. The organization announced that the operation involved the use of machine-guns and grenades and that several soldiers were killed and wounded in the clash. The organization announced the establishment of a revenge group called 'The Group of Temple Mount Martyrs.'"

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 2 November, in an ITIM report on page 3, writes that "Betzelem, the Israeli Center for Information on Human Rights in the Territories, claims that in October there was a steep rise in the number of casualties caused by the security forces in the territories.

"According to Betzelem's data, 31 Palestinians were killed by gunfire of the security forces: 28 in the West Bank and three in the Gaza Strip. Seven of the victims were residents of the Janin District."

Information Minister Urges Arab Solution in Gulf

JN0111101890 Amman THE STAR in English
1-7 Nov 90 p 3

["Special to THE STAR" by Nasir al-Kilani]

[Text] Minister of Information Mr. Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din has said that while there was clear cooperation among the five permanent members of the Security Council in exercising political pressure against Iraq and imposing sanctions against it, a rift in this camp had emerged in regard to adopting the military option in the Gulf.

Mr 'Izz-al-Din welcomed recent statements by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev as the strongest statements by a leader from outside the region about the unacceptability of a military solution to the Gulf crisis.

In an interview with THE STAR Mr. 'Izz-al-Din said that while President Gorbachev readdressed the Arab component in efforts to solve the crisis, "I don't think he ruled out the international component."

Mr 'Izz-al-Din said it was impossible to solve the Gulf crisis without the participation of Arab countries but added that there was an international role that will continue to be there.

But while he said it was difficult to envisage at this point an Arab mechanism to resolve the crisis in the Gulf, Mr. 'Izz-al-Din stressed the need to concentrate on "the Arab political will to solve our problems," and avert war.

Calling on Arab countries to work towards presenting their own agenda to solve the crisis, the information minister said that signals coming from various Arab capitals showed that a will to resolve the crisis peacefully was evolving.

"We (Arabs) should not deny ourselves the opportunity to exert real efforts to solve the problem," Mr 'Izz-al-Din said, adding that Iraq had been very clear in saying that it was willing to deal with any Arab country in search for a peaceful settlement to the conflict.

Mr 'Izz-al-Din said that Jordan would continue to work towards finding a peaceful resolution to the crisis, revealing that His Majesty King Husayn would in the coming few days initiate new contacts with Arab and foreign leaders aimed at exchanging views on means of bringing about a negotiated settlement to the crisis.

He said that the recent visit to Baghdad by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zayd bin Shakir was aimed at touching base with the Iraqis, and finding out their fresh thinking on new developments in the area.

Mr 'Izz-al-Din said he had sensed no change in the position of the American administration on the Gulf crisis, but that there "was great change" in the position of the American people who are pointing to the dangers

inherent in any military operation in the Gulf, and expressing their opposition to the military option in dealing with the crisis.

Responding to a question about the possibilities of war in the region he said it would be very difficult for the Americans to take military action in the Gulf at this stage and after the very explicit statement about the unacceptability of war by President Gorbachev and the endorsement of this statement by French President Francois Mitterand. "But nobody can be sure," he added.

Commenting on recent statement by British Prime Minister Mrs. Margaret Thatcher in which she said sanctions against Iraq should remain effective even after the resolution of the Gulf crisis and until Iraq's arsenal of chemical and biological weapons was destroyed, Mr 'Izz-al-Din said that the Middle East was full of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons and "this is an issue that should be addressed in total."

Mr 'Izz-al-Din said that the linkage among all issues of the region "has been provided and you cannot talk about the Gulf without talking about the Palestinian problem."

He said that Jordan and other Arab countries would be reminding the international community that they should deal with the Palestinian problem in the same manner with which they had dealt with the Gulf crisis, and implement not only the recent Security Council resolutions on the Israeli massacre of Palestinians in Al-Haram-al-Sharif, but also other resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict, namely 242 and 338.

"I think there is no way from now on that anybody, either the United States or Britain or any other permanent member of the Security Council can explain why they don't take a very active position on implementing the Security Council resolutions' on the Palestinian problem, said Mr 'Izz-al-Din.

He said that the super powers were able to implement resolutions when they want to, and could create the climate to do that. "What is applicable to the Gulf," he said, "should be completely applicable to the Palestinian problem."

Mr 'Izz-al-Din commended recent developments in the Syrian position on the role of the United States in the crisis in the region, saying that Syria had always been extremely active in pan Arab politics. He said it was therefore natural that Syria had this new position.

"There is no Arab country that will allow itself to be involved in the destruction of another Arab country... the security of Syria, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon is one," Mr 'Izz-al-Din said.

He said Jordan supported the end of military conflict in Lebanon, noting that it had called for the implementation of the al-Ta'if Agreement. Jordan supported a unified Lebanon with a strong government, he said.

Responding to a question on whether Jordan believed that an embargo was enforced on the port of al-Aqabah

by foreign navies in the Gulf, Mr 'Izz-al-Din said that "al-'Aqabah has been targeted for the last three months." He said that ships heading to al-'Aqabah were being subjected to thorough search and delays, and sometimes forced to change their destination, which posed great difficulties to Jordan's trade and economy.

He said that Jordan was doing every thing it could to bring this situation to an end. "We are pressing all parties involved, and pressing them very hard to solve this problem," he said.

The information minister said that Jordan would not involve itself in press attacks against countries that had been launching aggressive press campaigns against it. "Press attacks are part of the past... They are part of the fifties and sixties," he said.

Minister Seeks Talks on Damascus-Cairo Bus Line

JN0211082590 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
2 Nov 90 pp 1, 15

[Excerpts] Amman—PETRA—Commenting on some Arab news agency reports on traffic between Jordan and Egypt being halted, Dr. Muhammad al-Sumadi, secretary general of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, declared that these reports are unfounded part and parcel. However, he added, what has been disseminated by some news agencies came in view of the desire of two Egyptian and Syrian companies to operate a regular transportation route between Cairo and Damascus through Jordan, where one bus will be operating daily in each direction.

He explained that the Ministry of Transport and Communications had requested that the operation be postponed until the necessary contacts are held among the three fraternal countries. The route was scheduled to be open as of yesterday.

In a statement to the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, Dr. al-Sumadi added: Based on what I have said, it must be asserted that Jordan, in view of its central location, is a transit country that sought and continues to seek through all means to increase regular transportation through its territory to link the various parts of the Arab homeland. For example, he said, there is a regular tourist line between the Arab east and the Arab west through the al-'Aqabah and Nuwaybi' ports. [passage omitted]

He explained that operating a regular line between Cairo and Damascus is a step which we welcome in principle because it is in line with the objectives that we sought to achieve through bilateral agreements. However, he said, this step needs an agreement between the three sisterly states based on the bilateral transportation agreements signed between them with the aim of agreeing on a mechanism for operating this route so that it does not come at the expense of the existing regular lines which have been working industriously and actively for many

years and in which companies owned by the three sisterly countries—Egypt, Jordan, and Syria—are participating on an equal basis.

UN Committee Head Deplores Ship Interceptions

JN0111090290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
1-2 Nov 90 p 1, 5

[By Caroline Faraj, with agency dispatches]

[Text] Amman—The chairman of the U.N. Security Council's Sanctions Committee has deplored interceptions of cargo bound for Jordan by warships enforcing the international sanctions on Iraq and reaffirmed that there was no embargo against Jordan.

Marjat Rasi, a Finnish diplomat, also said she was "amazed" to hear of interceptions and harassment of ships carrying goods bound for Jordan. "The embargo is on Jordan, not on Iraq," Rasi told the Jordan Times and al-Ra'y in a telephone interview Wednesday.

She explained that the warships enforcing the sanctions were empowered to intercept goods bound for Iraq and any action beyond this was not permitted.

When told that on several occasions, goods bound for Jordan were either dumped into the sea or confiscated by American warships for no apparent reason, Rasi said such actions should be ended.

Jordanian importers have the right to seek compensation for such losses, she added. "In principle, I think they can ask for their rights," she said. "I am not an expert on international law, but I think they could."

She suggested that the Jordanian mission to the U.N. discuss these problems with other missions and forward its complaints through official channels.

According to Security Council diplomats quoted by news agencies, Jordan, which is forecast to lose over \$1 billion by the end of the year because of the U.N. sanctions against Iraq, has asked the Sanctions Committee to validate its adherence to the trade embargo.

The Sanctions Committee welcomed any U.N. action to monitor Baghdad's goods traffic with Amman and has turned a blind eye to the oil Jordan still receives from Iraq, the diplomat, a member of the committee, was quoted as saying by Reuters.

Jordan has stopped nearly all trade with Iraq because future aid hinges on whether other nations believe it is obeying sanctions.

The diplomat did not say which U.N. staff would observe the goods traffic. The U.N. has relief officials in Jordan as well as members from the U.N. Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO), on the demarcation line with Israel.

Jordan still receives oil from Iraq at concessionary prices or in exchange for Baghdad's debt to Amman, and according to U.N. officials, has few alternatives.

Saudi Arabia, the next nearest supplier, has cut off emergency oil supplies to Jordan, banned Amman's products from entry to Riyadh and expelled at least 50 Jordanian workers.

Reuters also said the Sanctions Committee had told Jordan Wednesday it had agreed to its request for an envoy to check Amman's adherence to the embargo against Iraq.

A senior Jordanian official was quoted as saying by Reuters that the U.N.'s office in Jordan would base a representative at al-Ruwayshid, Jordan's eastern border checkpoint with Iraq, to monitor the flow of goods across the frontier.

"We asked the U.N. to carry out the monitoring at al-Ruwayshid border because we got fed up from some Western embassies who stationed their people there to do the watching and were sometimes offending Jordan's sovereignty," he said.

The U.S. embassy in Jordan was one of the Western missions who had staff at the border following Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. U.S. diplomats say that the presence is required in case any American nationals reach the border from Iraq.

The Jordanian official said the U.N. had not told Jordan when it would start the checks.

Jordan has even stopped small amounts of food and medicine from going to Iraq although the Security Council ban on all trade and financial dealings with Iraq and Kuwait allows such supplies on humanitarian grounds.

On Oct. 20 Jordan stopped the flow of goods to Iraq to prove it was adhering to the sanctions.

A week later, the United States announced Jordan was complying fully with the sanctions and deserved Western aid.

Air Freight Official Denies 'Blacklist' Rumors

JN0111103090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
1-2 Nov 90 p 3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Rabab Mango]

[Text] Amman—Director of the Royal Jordanian (RJ) Air Freight Department in London said that some cargo agents in Britain were spreading rumours that Jordan was "blacklisted" and that they could not transport any cargo via the Royal Jordanian.

The director said in a message addressed to RJ in Amman Tuesday that the department managed to identify these cargo agents. RJ said it would not deal with them any more.

Earlier reports said a British firm had refused to transport cargo aboard RJ because it alleged that RJ was included in a blacklist. RJ denied being blacklisted and followed up the issue in London.

The director of RJ's London office affirmed in his letter to RJ that a cargo transportation agent which he identified as Robertson, was spreading these rumours and that RJ office would have no more agents with him.

The agent, Robertson, addressed a letter to a Jordanian contractor saying that the firm was facing difficulty in sending material needed by the contractor aboard RJ because the Jordanian airliner was blacklisted.

Director of the London office said the material needed by the contractor was transported to Jordan with no difficulty.

Paper on Possible Syrian Withdrawal From Gulf

JN0111122390 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic
3 Nov 90 pp 1, 23

[Text] Damascus is currently witnessing ceaseless political activity and intensive contacts among the political leaders in preparation for the important meeting which the National Progressive Front [NPF] will hold within a few days, primarily with the aim of evaluating the Syrian position toward the Gulf crisis and the Middle East developments, particularly the situation in the occupied Arab territories and the U.S. support for the Israeli policy of force.

Arab sources in Damascus say the Syrian Arab Republic a few days ago started a concentrated campaign against the U.S. policy that is biased toward Israel. Political observers say the NPF meetings will be extremely important as the various Syrian news media have set the stage for these results in press and radio commentaries. These results will concentrate on reassessing the Syrian position toward the Gulf crisis, particularly the adoption of a decision to withdraw the Syrian forces from Saudi Arabia. Arab circles in Damascus believe that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is very displeased with the U.S. support for Israel and believes that no Arab, regardless of his attitude toward any regime, can ever allow any foreign power, be it American or otherwise, to destroy the Iraqi military and economic might.

These circles cited a source close to President al-Asad as saying that Syria decided to send its troops to Saudi Arabia out of its conviction of the need to protect and not strike at Arab security. From this premise, Syria might decide to withdraw its forces from Saudi Arabia while stressing that it will very strongly stand by Iraq despite the two countries' political differences.

The Iraqi news media have for the past few days not made any reference to or criticized Syria's position toward the Gulf crisis. Observers believe that the anticipated Syrian decision will change the balances of power involved in the Gulf crisis.

Three UK Hostages Expected To Be Released

JN0211083290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0750 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 Nov (WAKH)—The newspaper AL-ITTihad issued in Abu Dhabi today said that three British hostages who have been held in Lebanon for years are expected to be released before 10 November.

The paper cited a Lebanese political source as saying that preparations are under way in Beirut for the release of the hostages, who will be handed over to a British envoy.

The source explained that this move is in response to the positive political development in British-Iranian relations with the recent restoration of diplomatic ties between Tehran and London on the one hand, and the expected resumption of normal relations between Britain and Syria before the end of this year on the other.

Implementation of Greater Beirut Plan Continues**Boundaries Defined; Army Deploys**

NC0211071190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] The implementation of the Greater Beirut Plan has begun with the simultaneous deployment of Army units and the legitimate authority's issuing political decisions. This confirms the state's determination to complete the march of salvation and accord, and to remove the remaining obstacles on the road of progress.

The two-man ministerial committee has managed to provide a suitable atmosphere, thanks to the various parties' positive response to the state's measures. Committee member Muhsin Dallul arrived in Damascus yesterday and immediately met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. They discussed the outcome of the committee's exchanges before and after the last Cabinet session.

Meanwhile, a Lebanese Forces delegation comprised of Nadir al-Sukkar and George Kassab, yesterday visited Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon. The meeting produced positive results, and the two sides agreed to resume their meetings in the future according to a schedule that will include a visit to Damascus by a Lebanese Forces delegation.

In another development, sources close to Defense Minister Albert Mansur said the state is firm and resolute in its intention to implement the Greater Beirut Plan and guarantee the freedom of political work for all parties.

The state will control all ports in Lebanon. The same sources revealed that a decision will soon be adopted to revive the naval operations room to prevent smuggling operations and illegal acts.

Within this context, the removal of weapons from greater Beirut, particularly from al-Ashrafiyah and the

southern suburb, is expected to be completed within the next few days. According to knowledgeable sources, greater Beirut will extend from Nahr al-Damur in the South to Nahr al-Kalb in the North. It will include the areas of the two al-Matin regions, 'Alayh, Suq al-Gharb, the Qabr Shmun triangle, al-Shuwayfat, 'Aramun, al-Dawhah, al-Mushrif, and al-Damur. The Army will deploy in all these areas.

Birri on Authority Over South

NC0111071090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri has maintained that legitimacy is stronger than any militia. He noted that the train is on the right track and that there is a massive popular will that yearns for salvation.

Minister Birri called for reconciliation among the various parties, emphasizing that greater Beirut will only last a few months if the state's authority is not established in the south. He expressed fears that grave events which would obstruct the process of solution in Lebanon might occur in the region.

Birri on Greater Beirut, Gulf

NC0211144490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Nabih Birri, minister of hydroelectric resources and housing, has affirmed that the zero hour for implementing the Greater Beirut Plan will be established in the next cabinet session. He expressed the fear that the Gulf situation will affect Lebanon if military action takes place in the region. He dismissed the logic which equates the Syrian presence with the Israeli occupation. He described the foreign hostages issue as the dirtiest result of the Lebanese war.

Hizballah Leader Comments

NC0211132390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] A prominent leader in Hizballah disclosed to AL-NIDA' in today's edition that Hizballah informed the ministerial committee that it is impossible to implement in Beirut's southern suburb a plan which ignores Hizballah's differences with the Amal Movement. He said that the dispute in Iqlim al-Tuffah must be addressed so that it will not negatively affect the Greater Beirut Plan.

Northerners Voice Reservations

NC0211074990 Ibadin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] At a time when the state is endeavoring to implement the Greater Beirut Plan, there have been voices in the north demanding that the plan be extended to include al-Madfun in the north, specifically the coastal

road. The demands also include the removal of the Lebanese Forces' military roadblocks in the area.

It has been revealed that during the recent Cabinet session, Ministers Dr. 'Abdallah al-Rasi and 'Umar Karami insisted on reopening the coastal road and on withdrawing all gunmen. They stressed that the present Greater Beirut Plan will remain incomplete and that inhabitants of the northern region voice reservations on the plan, which is incapable of protecting them on the roads.

Meanwhile, political sources said that failing to reopen the northern coastal road and to remove all checkpoints on this road would impair the government's credibility and endanger an entire area.

Army Ordered To Implement Security Measures

NC011123290 (Clandestine) Voice of the People
in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] A statement issued this afternoon by the Defense Ministry's Information Department said that National Defense Minister Dr. Albert Mansur sent a memorandum to the Army command asking it to implement measures to impose state authority and laws in the Army-controlled areas.

The memorandum said: In implementation of the Cabinet decision of 24 October 1990, we ask you to carry out the following:

1. To ban the appearance, movement, and stockpiling of illegal weapons in areas that are under the Lebanese Army's control, and to raid all places where stores of illegal weapons are suspected.
2. To cancel all licences previously granted by any party to transport, carry, and possess weapons.
3. To ban the setting up of any armed or unarmed illegal roadblock.
4. To vacate all partisan offices whose occupiers cannot prove their legal or legitimate ownership, or provide rental documents.
5. To retrieve Army equipment, including vehicles and weapons.
6. To inform all those concerned in the illegal armed forces of the measures, including a time limit to be set by the command, to ensure the implementation of the above-mentioned measures without resorting to force. We should be informed of these time limits.
7. To implement by force the required measures, when the above-mentioned time limits expire and in case those concerned do not implement the required measures.
8. To carry out prior and constant coordination with the fraternal Syrian forces when implementing the above-mentioned measures.

Junblatt on Government Reshuffle, Al-Ta'if Accord

NC011121190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt has asserted his readiness to hand over the party's weapons to the Syrian Arab Army. [passage indistinct]

In an interview with AL-BILAD, Junblatt called for the formation of a reliable Lebanese Army and, although he expressed his confidence in [Army Commander] General Lahhud, Junblatt said that this confidence is not enough.

Stressing the importance of the future defense minister, he said: We do not accept the Army's being led by a defense minister named Albert Mansur.

He affirmed his willingness to participate in the future government with a basic portfolio, and demanded the Defense Ministry post and not just the post of a minister of state as had been stated.

Asked about the upcoming phase, he expressed his concern and hinted at the likelihood that opposition voices will be muzzled.

He said that the al-Ta'if Accord will be tantamount to terrorism if they want to silence us, adding: The al-Ta'if Accord, which we view as a settlement imposed on all parties to stop the armed conflict, does not rob us of our right to continue the struggle democratically.

He attacked [Lebanese Forces Commander] Samir Ja'ja', saying he is one of the people more vehemently hostile to the nationalist and Arab line in Lebanon, and that he [Ja'ja'] will retain his arms and resources in preparation for the next stage.

Junblatt regretted the murder of Dany Sham'un and expressed fear from this [word indistinct].

He rejected the talk that groups together the militias and the resistance against occupation, and noted that the role of the resistance has just begun.

Junblatt expressed the fear that another 17 May [reference to the abrogated Lebanese-Israeli agreement signed in 1983] would be reached should Syria withdraw from Lebanon and the Lebanese regime distance itself from Syria. He rejected the appointment of deputies and called for free elections.

Islamic Resistance Releases 10 Amal Detainees

NC0211080390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Excerpt] A meeting was held yesterday in the home of the chief of Jba' township. It was attended by key figures from Iqlim al-Tuffah villages and by a number of Islamic Resistance officials. During the meeting, the Islamic Resistance announced the release of a group of Amal Movement detainees. The Islamic Resistance issued a statement on this initiative, which said: Affirming our

good faith in reaching a solution to end the conflict between us and the Amal Movement, and in support of and response to the efforts by the brothers in the Islamic Republic of Iran and in the Syrian Arab Republic, we declare the release of a group of the Amal Movement detainees. This group is awaiting the arrival of a Red Cross convoy in the Iqlim al-Tuffah to take them to their families. [passage omitted]

Ibrahimi on Promised Moroccan, Egyptian Assistance

NC3110133990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] Lakhdar Ibrahimi, emissary of the Arab tripartite committee, continued his meetings with Lebanese officials. He met in Bkirki with Patriarch Sfayr and in Harisa with Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente. Ibrahimi is due to meet later today with Samir Ja'ja', commander of the so-called Lebanese Forces.

Following his meeting with Patriarch Sfayr, Ibrahimi said: I have sensed that his beatitude and all spiritual leaders in Lebanon have a true desire to close the chapter on war and build a unified homeland in which all Lebanese can live as brothers with equal rights and obligations.

As for the assistance that the tripartite committee can provide for Lebanon now, Ibrahimi said that the main task of the committee is now outside Lebanon. The tripartite committee, he said, is focusing on the establishment of the international fund to assist Lebanon and on the approval of assistance to Lebanon as a country that was harmed by Gulf events.

Ibrahimi said that the marshaling of assistance has become easier now that the state's institutions, particularly the Lebanese Army, have regained their unity. Ibrahimi noted that Morocco will provide material assistance to the internal security forces in the near future, and that Egypt has decided to provide military assistance to the Army.

Ibrahimi said the Greater Beirut Plan will be implemented and the weapons of the militias will soon be collected. Concerning the Palestinian presence in Lebanon, he noted that the Palestinians are ready to cooperate with the Lebanese Government.

New Soviet Ambassador Ilichev Arrives in Beirut

NC3110162690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] Gennadiy Ilichev, new Soviet ambassador to Lebanon, arrived in Beirut today. He was met at the airport by Ambassador Riyad al-Qintar, director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, as well as by embassy officials.

The Soviet ambassador said that he is happy to serve as his country's envoy to Lebanon. He added that the Lebanese crisis is nearing its end and that peace and stability will soon be firmly established in Lebanon.

Commentary Demands Distinction Between Militias

NC2510141990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0650 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Political commentary: "The Benevolent and the Evil-doer Can Never Be on Equal Footing"]

[Excerpts] We record these words as we know that the man who is fostering the solution march in Lebanon is named President Hafiz al-Asad. When such a man is in control one can rest at ease, in view of the man's policy, experience, and stands. Apart from his experience, al-Asad assumes stands which show that the man has always taken the stands which represent the aspirations of Arab and Muslim masses. For over 20 years, the Syrian president has been the adamant, if not the only, rival of Israel in the Arab arena. He fought [the] Camp David [accord] and attempts to expand it to cover Jordan, he fought the 'Arafatist subservient approach, and he resisted all attempts to put an end to the struggle against Zionism.

President al-Asad, who stood firmly against Israel, is the same man who resisted Western, American, and European pressures against him—pressures which went as far as trying to abuse him in person to break down his distinctive stand.

With the same vigor and valor, President al-Asad denounced the Saddamist aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran though that same aggression had found many supporters in the Arab world for many reasons.

When al-Asad entered Lebanon, some had wagered that Lebanon would be a Maronite state and an imperialist entity parallel to the Zionist entity. However, al-Asad shattered that conception.

In 1982, al-Asad alone was standing by the forces of the Lebanese Islamic and nationalist resistance, fighting and confronting the Zionist invasion. The Islamic resistance knows more than anyone else that al-Asad has been a strong supporter of it and that the road of struggle and jihad, which had been paved by the Islamic Revolution Guards, would have never been traveled if it were not for President al-Asad's support and assistance. [passage omitted]

President al-Asad knows more than anyone that many of the points of strength in Lebanon have been built by the resistance sacrifice and struggle. These points of strength have established the foundations for many realms of freedom. It has now become possible to talk about a solution in Lebanon and about an inter-Lebanese accord. The Lebanese realize that accord can never be achieved among those defending Zionism and those defending Lebanon's option to join its nation's ranks.

There are militias and then there are militias. Militias are not all offensive. Equally, the state is not all virtuous. There are militias who fought Israel, and there are others who supported it. There are other militias which neither destroyed nor built. The state stood as a bystander when the Zionists devastated Lebanon in 1982. Even more, it

has contributed to developing that devastation into the so-called 17 May agreement, which was abrogated by Syria and the resistance with active support from the Islamic republic.

Here we say: We do not ask the militias to stay. We want to make a clear distinction between the various concepts and standards. We demand a distinction between those who paved the way for the occupation and those who resisted it.

We say also that we are determined to help the resistance continue, if not through militias, then through an army whose primary duty is to defend the homeland before defending the system.

The resistance army needs to add new cadres and to get rid of many cadres which were involved in hostile schemes and turned the army into a tool of oppression.

The greatest accomplishment of the army lies in confronting Israel firmly. All will find that the people—all the people—will insist on such an army and look forward to joining it. All will work to pave the way for this army's entry into all Lebanese regions. They will welcome such an army. Armies force their way ahead to confront the enemy while they advance peacefully among their kinfolk and supporters.

Amal-Israeli Confrontation in South Reported

*NC0111175790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 1 Nov 90*

[Text] A confrontation took place today between Amal Movement groups and a joint Lahd militia and Israeli force which attempted to advance toward the villages of Zibqin and Majdal Zun. The enemy force paved the way for its advance through artillery shelling, hitting valleys and the outskirts of the two villages. The outcome of this confrontation is still unknown. Security sources

reported, however, that the enemy force had retreated but was still intermittently shelling the area at the time of this newscast.

Israeli Raid Kills Palestinians, Lebanese

*NC0111173990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 1 Nov 90*

[Text] According to police sources, three Palestinian fighters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] were martyred and two front members were wounded during a raid which Israeli enemy aircraft launched against the southern al-Biq'a valley at 1330 today. Twelve Lebanese civilians were also wounded in this raid which targeted positions close to Majdal Balhis and houses belonging to Lebanese civilians.

The Syrian Social Nationalist Party-Emergency Command issued a statement in Beirut today in which it said that the Israeli air raid on Majdal Balhis also targeted a party position, but that there were no casualties.

Lahd Militia Vehicle Destroyed, Passengers Killed

*NC0211135190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 2 Nov 90*

[Text] National resistance fighters detonated an explosive charge under a Lahd militia armored vehicle. A statement issued by the Popular Army—the Ma'ruf Sa'd Forces, said that a patrol of the Popular Army's Martyrs Hamadah Bin-'Isa and Mahmud al-Azwar group planted an explosive charge on the road leading to Kafr Falus. The charge exploded under a Lahd militia armored vehicle, setting it on fire and killing its passengers. Subsequently, the militia stirred up the security situation on the Kafr Falus front, compelling the Popular Army to retaliate against the attackers' positions.

Nation Reportedly To Send More Troops to Gulf*AU0111213290 Belgrade Domestic Service
in Serbo-Croatian 2100 GMT 1 Nov 90*

[Text] TANJUG has learned from Saudi sources that additional Syrian units are going to join the international forces in the Gulf soon.

Observers believe that Damascus is making the move in order to convince the international forces that it will not give up helping in the struggle against Iraqi aggression against Kuwait.

'Blatant Contradiction' Seen in U.S. Policy*JN0111185390 Damascus AL-BATH in Arabic
29 Oct 90 p 1*

[Editorial: "Arming Israel and the Withdrawal of Washington's Pretexts"]

[Text] There is no need to underscore the blatant contradiction in the U.S. policy vis-a-vis the Middle East issues. While the U.S. Administration claims to be calling for stability and peace in the region, we find that it is absolutely biased toward Israel, encouraging it by arming it to the teeth. We do not want here to talk about the long history of this blind bias, but we only want to refer to the past few months. As soon as the Gulf crisis erupted, the U.S. Administration used this crisis as a pretext to supply Israel with missiles, the most sophisticated weaponry, and billions of dollars to settle Jewish emigres. What reversed logic is this in the U.S. policy in the region, and who believes that this new escalation in the arming of Israel is in the service of solving the region's problems and putting an end to aggression and expansion?

The U.S. Administration, which at times tried to mislead the Arabs regarding its relations with Israel, has completely failed to convince us of any change in the essence and strategy of these relations. This strategy, which has been maintained by the previous administrations, is based on making Israel the strongest power in the region.

If the U.S. Administration does not need pretexts and justifications to extend all forms of aid to the Zionists, it has fallen into the trap of reality which confirms the extent to which it is committed to Israel when it took the Gulf crisis as a flimsy pretext to arm and supply the enemy entity with sophisticated equipment and billions of dollars, as though it is entitled to this aid, which only encourages aggression and provides unlimited support for the Zionist ambitions in the Arab land.

Hence, when Syria warned against the dimensions and dangers of the U.S. support for Israel, it wanted to stress the necessity of separating the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question, because any support for the enemy—regardless of its type—will harm the Arab central cause and give the Zionists more capabilities to continue with aggression and expansion.

Therefore, it has become urgent and necessary to reevaluate the U.S. position and to withdraw all pretexts from the hands of the U.S. Administration. This should begin now by the removal of the causes of the Gulf crisis used by the U.S. Administration as a pretext to arm the enemy. The Arab solution, based on the Cairo summit resolutions and the Arab League Charter, remains the more appropriate and safer solution.

Columnist Warns Arabs of U.S. Support for Israel*JN0111183890 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic
29 Oct 90 p 8*

["Behind the News" column by Ahmad Sawwan: "U.S. Support for Israel"]

[Text] Donald Rice, secretary of the U.S. Air Force, is due in Israel on an official visit today, during which he will inspect military bases and facilities of the Israeli arms industry. He is accompanied on the visit by senior U.S. Army officers.

We cannot fail to see the visit against the background of a decision by Congress a few days ago to boost U.S. aid to Israel and provide it with more weaponry and aircraft. The visit demonstrates unqualified U.S. support for Israel and a determination to further enhance its military capability and abet its aggressive, terroristic, and expansionist bent, thereby suggesting that Washington is happy with Israel's contempt for the international consensus as expressed in UN Security Council Resolution 672, and its refusal to admit a UN mission.

In strategic terms and beyond the immediate present, the United States seems to be at pains to make the point that, come what may, its blind, unequivocal support for Israel is sacrosanct, and that Israel itself is synonymous with U.S. interests in the Middle East—as if America's best interests could only be advanced by lending support for Israel's repressive policies, aggression, and expansionism. One is inevitably led to this conclusion by the scale of assistance reserved for Israel in the U.S. foreign aid program. On top of anti-missile Patriot missiles and fresh ammunitions, the United States is supplying Israel with fresh deliveries of new F-15s and helicopters. And then there is the decision to grant Israel an additional \$700 million, plus \$400 million to build housing for Jewish immigrants, and a decision to boost U.S. stockpiles of arms and munitions in Israel to be used by the latter if the need arises—not to mention \$1.8 billion in military assistance and \$1.2 billion in economic aid, and whatever military equipment NATO can spare for Israel.

The bottom line is that with 30 percent of the U.S. foreign aid program going to Israel, the United States remains Israel's sponsor, and Washington seems to be even more interested in Israel's security than its own. Indeed, the United States seems to theorize that without reinforced Israeli security, its own security will remain shaky. This infinite U.S. support has lent itself to belligerent rhetoric and bluster by Israeli leaders, who have

recently been especially heavyhanded, meting out collective punishment and deportations against Arabs in the occupied territory.

Given absolute U.S. support for Israel and the underlying objectives thereof under circumstances of a universal preoccupation with the Gulf crisis, the Arabs would do well to take stock of the risks inherent in such backing and then determine the appropriate response to Zionist aggression, since no Arab is impervious to the Israeli threat.

Paper Sees Zionist Influence in French Stance

JN0111162190 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic
28 Oct 90 p 8

["Behind The News" column by Mustafa al-Faqir: "The Condemned French Position"]

[Text] While the legitimate Lebanese Government is continuing its earnest move to achieve the country's unity, spread the power of the government, terminate all abnormal phenomena, and consolidate national reconciliation as the path to building a cohesive, free society; and at a time when the leaders of the militias and parties have expressed readiness to respond to the legitimate government's steps to establish greater Beirut, control facilities and ports, and cleanse the capital of all armed presence—except Lebanese Army Forces and the Syrian forces supporting them—some spiteful sides in the French Government are continuing their rabid campaign against the great accomplishment achieved through the liquidation of the hotbeds of rebellion and partition as a result of the Lebanese-Syrian joint operation. They are mourning the defeated and fugitive general, not hesitant in giving him all names of heroism. And it is known that his only heroism is represented by killing more than 2,000 Lebanese citizens; destroying facilities, installations, and buildings; stealing state money; and opening accounts in Paris.

The French position might appear strange to the ordinary observer who does not follow up realities. However, when we learn that Zionist factions have great influence in the French Government and that they control the official and nonofficial French media; and when we learn that the Zionist factions titillate—wickedly—the old colonialist inclinations of some French quarters and kindle their known rancor against the Arabs, there will be no room for surprise. These quarters consider Lebanon one of the overseas protectorates and consider the factional and religious situation which they created in Lebanon—and the blatant racial privileges that resulted from this situation—a right that nobody has the right to touch or relinquish. Thus, France stood on the side of every Lebanese faction that harbors enmity to Arabism and supported every Lebanese faction that rejected equality in rights and duties among the Lebanese. It also supported every faction which considered the factional

tyranny an inevitable matter, not out of love for the people of Lebanon, but as an expression of an old hidden colonialist inclination.

How does France, which supported 'Awn and his wars against Lebanon, stand on the side of Lebanon? How can France be with Lebanon while it refrained from rendering simple aid to the government of President al-Hirawi and his salvation and unification plan and encouraged the fugitive general throughout the period of his rebellion to escalate his resistance against the legitimate government? How will it be with France while it wants Lebanon to turn into an arena for sectarian fighting and the evidence is that it opposes the domination of justice and equality among citizens?

Here, we would like to ask: Does France really stand with Lebanon's Christians? Our answer is the following: Whoever opposes Lebanon's unity, the domination of the power of the government, and termination of the militias, and whoever encourages rebellion and mutiny and places obstacles before the government of al-Hirawi does not want anything good for the Christians in Lebanon. Patriarch Sfayr was the subject of the worst insults from the fugitive general who is hidden in the French Embassy, and Sfayr is the spiritual leader of the Maronite Sect. France made no move. Only yesterday, Patriarch Sfayr described the policy followed by 'Awn throughout the two years. There was no democracy, and that policy could have led to a final partition of Lebanon. Did 'Awn not destroy East Beirut and evict its citizens?

Some quarters in the French Government are working hard to revive tension in Lebanon. In doing so, they converge with firm Israeli schemes. These quarters are trying to bypass the Lebanese Government itself and speak in the name of Lebanon. We will not be surprised tomorrow if these quarters raise the slogan "The French Lebanon" as they raised in the past the slogan "The French Algiers." However, such a suspect and condemned move cannot draw one single voice in Lebanon. The Lebanese are unanimous on national reconciliation; and the Lebanese are advancing toward real steps that will uproot evil and sedition forever. And the playing on the tone of Syrian-Lebanese relations will not benefit France, because these relations are organic and family ones, and because Syrian-Lebanese cooperation has become a deep-rooted, firm conviction since it has kept Lebanon away from the plots of partition and Zionization.

Commentary Alleges French 'Hostility' to Arabs

JN0111154590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Information disseminated during and after Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi's visit to France indicates that the Israeli minister received a warm response concerning assistance in settling the Soviet Jewish immigrants in Palestine and the occupied Arab territory and that the French president personally informed him that

France opposes the designation of specific places where these immigrants should settle in the occupied territory. In other words, Israel has the freedom to choose areas for settling them, regardless of the rights of the original inhabitants of the occupied territories.

This French stand does not agree with what we had heard about France's declared opinion regarding its opposition to settling Israelis in the occupied Arab territories. Indeed, the Israeli minister himself was surprised by the extent of this response, because on the eve of his visit to France he expressed doubt that his visit would realize such success. Does this mean that there is a change in the French position in order to appease Israel at the expense of Arab rights—of which France has often liked to portray itself as a champion?

This French attitude coincides with Israel's grotesque, daily massacres of the people of the occupied Arab territories. These massacres are aimed at forcing the inhabitants to leave their land in order to replace them by the Soviet Jewish immigrants. Does France not know that such a French attitude toward the Zionist settlement movement in the occupied territories gives Israel the green light to commit further massacres? How can this attitude be in harmony with France's denunciation of the al-Haram al-Sharif massacre by its support of the UN Security Council's condemnation of this massacre? Where is the independent French stand, and what price its immunity from the influence the Zionist circles have on the French decisionmaking? How can we reconcile France's attitude toward Lebanon and lamentations about the fate of General Awn and his henchmen with its stand on assisting and encouraging the Zionist settlements in the occupied territory at a time when the Zionist massacres are escalating against the Palestinian people?

French officials have often spoken about their rejection of double standards and double-dealing. Does not this French attitude toward the Zionist settlements question reflect double standards and double dealings, especially because they have always spoken of their support and backing for the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights?

What we are observing these days is that France has begun to exhibit hostility toward the Arab states, nation, and rights in general. This requires a serious and careful Arab revision of the French stand toward the Arab nation, its interests, and its rights.

Kuwait Annexation Will 'Obstruct' Arab Solution

JN3110192690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0545 GMT 31 Oct 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial under the headline "Lest the Catastrophe Occur," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Signs indicate that the situation in the Gulf is proceeding toward

escalation after diplomatic efforts that were made by several sides have reached a semi-dead end. The escalation of the situation there harbors the signs of a horrible military explosion whose results are unpredictable. In light of this, the failure of political efforts to achieve the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait actually means paving the way for a military solution to this crisis.

TISHRIN adds: Those who have refused to implement the Cairo summit resolutions, and are now refusing to respond to the will of the international community that calls for an unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait, are basically responsible for having the situation reached the brink of explosion. However, this does not absolve some sides, who exerted feverish efforts to obstruct the Arab solution since the beginning of the crisis and to disrupt the mechanism of this solution that was formulated by the emergency Arab summit in Cairo.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Iraq's insistence on annexing Kuwait has obstructed a peaceful Arab solution. Should this insistence continue, it will obstruct all other prospects for a peaceful solution and leave the door wide open before the only remaining choice; namely, the military solution, which means destruction and tragedy. The opportunity to save the Arabs and Iraq from the catastrophe is still available, and it lies in going back on the historical mistake that was made against Kuwait, in stopping the use of force in Arab relations, and in resorting to the language of understanding, dialogue, and solidarity, and to the voice of wisdom and reason. We all hope that wisdom will triumph, and that the Arabs will emerge safe from this difficult test with the least harm. The alternative is really horrible and terrible, and will cost Iraq an unpredictably dear price.

Jordan Criticized for Blocking Traffic to Cairo

JN0111172390 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1630 GMT
1 Nov 90

[Text] Damascus, 1 Nov (SANA)—Sources of the Syrian Al-Karnak foundation for tourist transportation have learned from reliable sources that Jordan gave strict instructions to its border authorities not to allow the passage of overland tourist traffic between Cairo and Damascus, and vice versa.

The foundations' sources said that the first trip was supposed to have begun today, Thursday, from Cairo to Damascus, and to have returned next Monday from Damascus back to Cairo.

It is well known that the Jordanian authorities are thus contravening international and Arab regulations concerning the passage of international and Arab means of transportation.

It is noteworthy that an agreement was signed between the concerned parties in Syria and Egypt last May on organizing land trips between Cairo and Damascus via Jordan.

Bangladesh

Dhaka Implements Curfew After Clashes

Provisions Detailed

*BK0111162690 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 1 Nov 90*

[Text] To protect against looting and arson following the incidents relating to Babri Mosque in Ayodhya, a curfew has been imposed on all areas of 14 police stations of Dhaka Metropolitan City since 1600 this afternoon. The police stations are: Kotwali, Sutrapur, Lal Bagh, Damra, Motijheel, Ramna, Sabaz Ganj, Dhanmandi, Tezgaon, Mohammadpur, Mirpur, Cantonment, Gulshan, and Uttara. The curfew will remain in force until further orders. During the curfew hours, none will be allowed to go out without written permission of the concerned authorities. Doctors, newsmen, and persons on duty in emergency services like electricity, crematorium, ambulance, water, gas, fire brigade, and garbage disposal units will not come under the purview of the curfew. However, they will have to collect curfew passes from police control room at [placename indistinct]. Action will be taken against curfew violators.

Moslem Worshippers, Police Clash

*BK0211120090 Hong Kong AFP in English
1147 GMT 2 Nov 90*

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 2 (AFP)—Moslem demonstrators clashed with security forces in the capital and elsewhere Friday during a brief relaxation of curfew, witnesses said, as the death toll in three days of religious clashes rose to three.

At least 1,000 Moslems came out of the Baitul Mukarram national mosque here after Friday prayers and tried to hold a rally, but security forces used long bamboo sticks and rifle butts to disperse the demonstration against the storming of a mosque in Ayodhya, India, by Hindus.

Dhaka Radio had warned that the curfew would be reimposed after two and a half hours and that security forces would not tolerate demonstrations or rallies during the break.

The forces also used batons against curfew violators and several people were arrested, but police said they did not have an immediate figure.

A young boy died from a fall when police chased the violators, witnesses said. No further details were available.

Medical sources confirmed that an unidentified boy had died Wednesday at Dhaka Medical College hospital after he was shot during Moslem-Hindu clashes that erupted Tuesday night in the old city.

A second victim, an elderly Moslem man, died Thursday at Salimullah Medical College hospital in the old city

shortly after he was brought in with a gunshot wound to the chest, a doctor there said.

The doctor said 200 people injured in the riots were treated in various hospitals.

Many people who were stranded because of the sudden order on Thursday rushed to their destinations during the break.

About 600 passengers also left the main Zia International Airport here after being stranded there for about a day, sources said.

Troops were seen at different points of the city, but were mostly concentrated at the volatile, walled old parts of the city, where a large number of Hindu people live.

In the southeastern second-city of Chittagong, some 5,000 people refused to join a peace procession by Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud and paraded the city streets briefly after Friday prayers, before being dispersed by the security forces. The minister left the scene quickly under police protection, witnesses said.

Hindus are the largest minority group in overwhelmingly Moslem Bangladesh, making up about 12 per cent of the 110 million population. The groups have generally lived together peacefully in this country.

President Hussain Mohammad Ershad on Thursday ordered troops to join police and paramilitary forces in enforcing order in Dhaka, and widened a curfew imposed Tuesday night on older districts to the rest of the city.

Ershad Addresses Rally

*BK0111164090 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 1 Nov 90*

[Excerpt] President Ershad says the glorious tradition of communal harmony in the country will be preserved at all costs and antisocial elements dealt with severely. The law-enforcing agencies, he said, have been asked to take drastic actions against those indulging in activities detrimental to peace and harmony.

The president was addressing a huge peace rally organized by the Jatiya Party in Dhaka this afternoon. Emphasizing the need for maintaining peace, stability, and social tranquility, President Ershad called upon the leaders of all political parties, students, professional groups, peasants, workers, and people from all walks of life to come forward with determination to maintain peace and harmony in society. He said the nation needs peace and progress at this crucial hour for its onward march and all shall be cooperative with each other to achieve national goals. He gave the assurance to the members of the country's Hindu community that all steps will be taken for their safety and security. Under no circumstances, he said, the vested antisocial elements will be allowed to continue their activities.

The Jatiya Party peace rally later turned into a huge peace procession. The processionists paraded the city streets chanting slogans in favor of communal peace and harmony. The president visited different parts of the capital today to see the situation. [passage omitted]

India

Hindus Move on Mosque; 12 Die in Uttar Pradesh

BK0211093690 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, 12 persons were killed in separate incidents today. In Ayodhya, at least four persons were killed in police firing. Three of them died on the spot, while one succumbed to injuries in Faizabad Hospital. The trouble started at about 1000 when a large group of kar sevaks [Hindu volunteers] marched toward the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine] complex. Police tried to stop them, failing, then resorting to caning and dispersed them. Soon, a big crowd appeared from the north side of the Ayodhya police station. They continued to squat. Soon after, another group appeared from the west side. The police tried to stop them and a pitched battle between the kar sevaks and the police continued for half hour, during which the police fired intermittently.

In Bijnor, five persons were killed in the fresh violent incidents in the curfew-bound Kotwali police station area last night. The situation is stated to be tense. Five columns of army have been deployed to assist the civil administration. A large number of illegal arms and ammunition has been recovered during the house-to-house search by the police. A factory manufacturing illegal arms has also been unearthed. Over 1,000 persons have been arrested so far. Meanwhile, the superintendent of police, Bijnor, has been transferred.

In Meerut, two persons were killed in separate violent incidents today. According to our correspondent, the situation is tense but under control. In Aligarh, one person was killed in group clashes. In Kanpur, the situation in the curfew-bound areas is peaceful. All India Radio Kanpur correspondent reports despite curfew orders in some parts of the city, a large number of devotees took a holy dip in the River Ganges on the occasion of Kartik Purnima [Hindu festival] today. A fair has been organized at Bithur. The curfew was relaxed for five hours from 0700 this morning in Allahabad following improvement in the situation. A large number of people took a holy dip in the Sangam [confluence of the Ganges and the Yamuna Rivers] on the Kartik Purnima and took part in the Guru Nanak Dev Jyanti [Sikh Guru Nanak's birthday] celebrations at Gurdwara [Sikh temple] Sri Gursingh Sabha during the relaxation period.

In Gujarat, an indefinite curfew has been imposed in Kagadapith police station area in Ahmedabad since early this morning following incidents of violence.

In Andhra Pradesh, police forces opened fire to disperse a violent mob in Kinna Golkonda Village of Rangareddy District, resulting in the death of one person late last night. The situation in the curfew-bound twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad is peaceful.

Curfew-Bound Cities Reported Peaceful

BK0111151790 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the situation in curfew-bound areas of Faizabad and Ayodhya continues to be peaceful. The Army staged a flag march today in Faizabad. The situation in the other 19 curfew-bound towns is also reported to be peaceful barring some violent incidents from Bijnour.

Meanwhile, an indefinite curfew was clamped this morning in Gaziabad District after violent incidents in which one person was killed and three others seriously injured. The situation is reported to be tense but under control. The situation in the curfew-bound areas in Kanpur is tense but under control. As the situation improved in the curfew-bound areas of Allahabad, the curfew was relaxed for four hours from 1200 to 1400 and 1500 to 1700 in a phased manner.

In Indore, curfew has been lifted from three police station area of Palatia, Ban Ganga, and Rajendra Nagar from 1400 this afternoon following improvement in the situation.

The minister of state for home affairs, Mr. Subodh Kant Sahay, today visited some violence-affected areas of Ranchi and made inquiries from the people about the situation. He also reviewed the law and order situation in the town with senior state officials. Later, addressing a press conference, Mr. Sahay said that the center is providing all possible assistance to the state governments without any political consideration to curb communal violence.

Congress-I Supports Janata Dal Ministry in Gujarat

BK0111151890 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] The Gujrata chief minister, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel, has won the vote of confidence in the State Assembly with the support of the Congress-I. According to agency reports, the House passed a motion by 111 votes in favor and 66 against. The Janata Dal-led coalition government in the state was reduced to minority after the chief minister secured the resignation of BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] ministers and two parliamentary secretaries on 26 October. The governor, Mr. Mahipal Singh Shastri, while accepting the resignations had asked Mr. Patel to prove his majority in the House.

Radio, Television Workers Hold Sit-In Strike

*BK0111162790 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 1 Nov 90*

[Text] Program professionals of AIR [All India Radio] and Doordarshan [Television] today held mass dharna [sit-in agitation] at AIR and Doordarshan kendras [stations] demanding immediate notification of the Indian broadcasting program service. The staff association claimed that they stopped work from 0900 to 1400. The director general of All India Radio, Mr. A.R. Shinde, said some work relating to recording of programs was affected.

Iran

London Embassy Reopens After 18-Month Closure

*LD0211124990 London PRESS ASSOCIATION
in English 1226 GMT 2 Nov 90*

[Report by Sally Weale, PRESS ASSOCIATION]

[Text] The Iranian Embassy in London was officially reopened today with a message of hope for future relations between Iran and Britain.

The new Iranian Charge d'Affaires Syyed Shamsoddin Khareghani raised the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran above the embassy building where it flew for the first time since diplomatic relations between the two countries were severed 18 months ago. In a brief statement Mr Khareghani expressed hope for co-operation between Britain and Iran, particularly over the Gulf crisis.

"Relations between Iran and Britain have a long history with its ups and downs," he said, making his speech in Persian followed by an English translation.

At the embassy to greet him were two members of the Group of Friends of John McCarthy, anxious to welcome the Iranians back and hopeful about the three British hostages—Terry Waite, Jack Mann and Mr McCarthy—following the restoration of relations. Jane Parritt and Mary Lambe were welcomed into the embassy where they delivered a letter asking for a meeting in the near future to discuss the hostages. Jane Parritt said: "We are here to welcome them back and hope we can all combine efforts to secure the release of the hostages as soon as possible.

"We will be trying to arrange a meeting with Mr Khareghani to discuss what else can be done to get the hostages out—preferably we would like to see John back before his birthday, which is November 27." She was hopeful the Iranians could help secure the release of the hostages but was also anxious to see the restoration of relations with Syria.

Mr Khareghani made no reference to the hostage situation and refused to answer reporters' questions, saying his schedule was too busy but perhaps matters could be discussed at a future news conference.

Mr Khareghani said in his speech: "I am pleased to witness the rehoisting of the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran in London.

"I hope to be able to take effective steps toward solving the residual problems and also hope that I shall have the co-operation of the British authorities, which should be based upon an understanding of the values underlying the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"There are many grounds for co-operation between the two countries, both in bilateral dimensions as well as in international and regional spheres, particularly with regard to the current issues in the Middle East and in the Persian Gulf region."

Mr Khareghani, 38, was speaking in the embassy after a brief ceremony in which the green and white flag of Pakistan—which has been taking care of Iranian interests in Britain since relations were severed—was lowered by the new high commissioner for Pakistan, Dr Mohamad Homayoon Khan. In its place, Mr Khareghani hoisted the green, white and red flag of Iran to applause from fellow Iranians watching from the road below.

Relations between Iran and Britain were severed after the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini condemned author Salman Rushdie to death for allegedly blaspheming Islam in his novel *The Satanic Verses*.

The new charge d'affaires arrived in Britain yesterday with three fellow diplomats, Mr Mahmood Asadian, first secretary; Mr Ali Asghar Farshchi, second secretary; and Mr Behrouz Azimi, attache. One more Iranian diplomat is expected within the next week to match the numbers of the British diplomatic team which reopened the British Embassy in Tehran last Sunday [28 Oct].

Paper on 'Outstanding Problems' in Ties With UK

*NC0111172890 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
22 Oct 90 p 2*

[Editorial: "More Goodwill Vital to Improved Iran-British Ties"]

[Text] Finally diplomatic relations have been established between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Britain after the issuance of a statement and meeting of the two countries foreign ministers last month at the United Nations. In the next week or so the embassies of the two countries will be re-opened in Tehran and London.

During the last 10 months high-ranking British officials have repeatedly expressed their desire for the re-establishment of official diplomatic ties with Iran. The stance declared by the prime minister, foreign minister and other British officials, in respect for the decision of the Iranian Majles and the Supreme National Security Council's declaration, that there are no more obstacles on the resumption of relations has opened the way for renewal of ties.

Also in the past year, and particularly following Iraq's Aug. 2 occupation of Kuwait, high-ranking British officials have stressed the valuable role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the regional crisis and necessity of contact and talks with senior officials in Tehran.

Britain has explicitly expressed the need for understanding the importance of relations with Iran and at present the two countries are on the verge of a new era in relations and bilateral, regional and international cooperation.

In the near future diplomats will be exchanged and practical political relations will be re-established, yet there remains certain problems in the way of the further improvement of bilateral ties. These problems need to be solved by both sides.

One of the outstanding problems is the continuing imprisonment in England of Iranian student Mehrdad Kowkabi. Even after several court sessions, he still languishes in British prisons for the past 10 months. Each time the British judiciary has postponed his case to carry out further investigations and for finding further evidence for his "crimes."

The seeming truth is that Kowkabi, who was in the final stages of his doctorate's course, was to become a sacrificial goat of mutual misunderstandings at a particular stage in time. Kowkabi has been deprived of returning to his native homeland and participating in the reconstruction of his country. At present his wife and children are suffering mental anxiety and are awaiting his return.

At the present stage of Irano-British relations and since Kowkabi is an innocent victim, passing the best days of his life behind tall walls of English jails, the British government should take practical steps to release him. In Iran itself, university students, academics, university professors and others have repeatedly called for his release.

At the start of the re-establishment of Irano-British ties, it seems natural the Iranian people will look at Kowkabi's release as a friendly gesture by London. In the opinion of the Islamic Republic, such good intentions will also leave a positive impact on the process of normalization of bilateral relations.

UN Delegation Denies Report on War Damages

*BK0111081490 Tehran IRNA in English 0650 GMT
1 Nov 90*

[Text] United Nations, New York, Nov. 1, IRNA—The Iranian mission here Wednesday [31 October] denied an ABC report Tuesday which quoted CIA sources as saying that Iran has agreed to receive oil from Iraq in war damages.

A communique published by the Iranian mission here Wednesday denied the report, adding that the Islamic Republic of Iran fully observes U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

It said, elsewhere in reference to the Persian Gulf crisis, that Iran is for Iraq's unconditional pull-out from Kuwait.

ICO Secretary General Algabid Visits Tehran

Arrives 31 October

*LD3110181290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 31 Oct 90*

[Text] Mr. Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the Islamic conference Organization [ICO], arrived in Tehran this afternoon at the head of a political delegation. He was welcomed by Mr. Velayati, minister of foreign affairs.

After his arrival, in an interview with our reporter, the ICO secretary general expressed his pleasure at this trip. He said: In view of the convening of the ICO summit conference in Senegal in the near future, his visit to Tehran is within the context of a number of visits to Islamic countries in order to prepare the participating countries for taking part in that conference. After stressing that Iran is an important member of the ICO, he said: The existing grounds for bilateral and international cooperation and the situation of the region will be discussed in meetings with Iranian officials.

Meets Finance Minister

*LD0111150290 Tehran IRNA in English 1319 GMT
1 Nov 90*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 1 (IRNA)—Visiting Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Hamid Algabid discussed cooperation between OIC and the Islamic Republic with Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh here Wednesday [31 October].

Algabid who arrived in Tehran last night also called on Iran to help inject new dynamism in OIC's economic and cultural establishments in order to bring about close cooperation among Muslim states.

Nurbakhsh referred to the recent developments in the eastern bloc and formation of a united Europe in 1992, saying Muslim countries should launch more serious cooperation in economic, commercial and monetary fields.

He announced the Islamic Republic's readiness to join the trade preferential system among Muslim states, calling on all Islamic countries to do the same.

He also proposed that a team of experts seek a proper pattern for setting up an Islamic common market.

The two agreed that Iran put its experiences in Islamic banking system at the disposal of OIC's Islamic banking federation.

Meets Velayati

LD0111211890 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1600 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organisation [ICO], who has come to Tehran at the head of a delegation, met Foreign Minister Velayati last night. He expressed satisfaction with Iran's activities in the ICO and called for the expansion of Iran's ties with that organization.

Referring to the problems in the world of Islam he stressed the importance of solidarity between Islamic countries to solve these problems. Referring to Iran's valuable experience in implementing Islamic standards in society, he called for the transfer of this experience to the ICO.

In reply, stressing the need for Muslims to solve the problems in the world of Islam, our country's foreign minister emphasized the importance of holding an ICO summit in Senegal as soon as possible to review the current crisis in the Persian Gulf. He said that attempts to postpone the meeting are condemned by Iran.

He also stressed the necessity for the ICO to pay attention to Islamic minorities, particularly the Muslim people of Kashmir. [passage omitted]

Bahraini Minister Departs; Velayati Comments

LD0111175490 Tehran Television Service
in Persian 1600 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak al Khalifah, the Bahraini foreign minister, visiting Tehran at the head of a diplomatic delegation, left Tehran this afternoon. He was seen off by Mr. Velayati.

In an interview with our reporter before leaving, he described the outcome of his talks with Iranian authorities as positive. He said at the end of the talks it was agreed that a direct telephone line be set up between Iran and Bahrain as soon as possible. He added that the Iranian and Bahraini foreign ministers considered any change in recognized international borders of regional countries unacceptable and stressed the legitimacy of Kuwait's sovereignty.

Then, Mr. Velayati said that in the talks with the Bahraini foreign minister the outcome of the meeting of foreign ministers of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] in New York had been reviewed. He said a similar meeting will take place with the participation of Iran and other GCC members. Various Persian Gulf issues will be discussed.

Regarding the outcome of the talks he said:

[Begin Velayati recording] In two rounds of talks we discussed the expansion of mutual ties and regional cooperation. The two sides agreed to raise mutual ties to ambassador level within a month, and for ambassadors

of each country to be sent to the other's capital. Preliminary talks were also held about other fields of cooperation between directors general of the two foreign ministries. God willing, they will be followed up, and an Iranian delegation will go to Bahrain to follow up the agreements reached between the two directors general.

Regarding regional cooperation, I should say that the two sides described the recent meeting in New York between the GCC foreign ministers and the Iranian foreign minister as positive. They both stressed that a second foreign ministers' meeting—that is, GCC foreign ministers and the Iranian foreign minister—should take place as soon as possible, and various issues relating to regional cooperation should be discussed. We think the general consensus in the Persian Gulf region at present is that there must be all-round cooperation between the countries around this sensitive area. Particularly after the recent incidents this need is felt even more. [end recording]

Khomeyni, Nigerian Minister Lament Late Imam

LD3110202390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] Mr. Ibrahim Zakaria, the Nigerian minister of state for foreign affairs, and his accompanying delegation—who are currently in Tehran—visited this morning the house of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, and met and conferred with Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni.

In that meeting the Nigerian minister of state for foreign affairs said he was happy to visit the house of his eminence the imam. He said: We knew the great leader, Imam Khomeyni, very well, and we were inspired by him in our work. His absence is a loss not only to Iran, but to the entire people of the world. His eminence the imam, may God's blessings be upon him, enjoys a special position in Nigeria, and the people of Nigeria have much respect for the great Iranian leader. His demise is a huge loss for all of us.

In that meeting Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said: I hope we are able to continue the path of the Imam in Islamic countries together with other noble nations. The Imam's policy toward friendly and Muslim countries was a clear one. It was a policy not only for Muslims, but also covered the deprived. He added: We believe if all of us join hands, we will establish a great power against America and other colonialist countries of the world: That task requires a highly consolidated cultural struggle.

Velayati Meets Japanese Special Envoy Matsunaga

OW3110000790 Tokyo KYODO in English 2303 GMT
30 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 31 KYODO—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told a Japanese Government

envoy on Tuesday [30 October] that Iran is opposed to any compromise with Iraq, which invaded and annexed Kuwait in early August.

In a meeting with Nobuo Matsunaga, an adviser to the Japanese Foreign Ministry and former ambassador to Washington, Velayati said if Iraq is allowed to keep some of the Kuwaiti territory, other countries may copy Iraq's action in the future.

Velayati also said Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is not a man to understand reason, and nations must continue applying pressure on Iraq to make it release foreign hostages.

Velayati said Kuwait should be restored to its state before Iraq's August 2 invasion, and the future of Kuwait is a matter for its own people, indicating Iran's support of the return of the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

Matsunaga is visiting Tehran as a special envoy of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to discuss the Persian Gulf crisis with Iranian leaders.

Afghan Mujahidin Leader Arrives in Tehran

*NC0211082690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 2 Nov 90*

[Text] Mr. Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, the president of the Afghan mujahidin interim government based in Pakistan, and Mr. Gilani, the interim government's justice minister, arrived in Tehran last night and were received by the deputy foreign minister for Asian-Oceania affairs and the foreign minister's adviser for Afghan affairs.

Mr. Mojaddedi spoke to reporters and described the morale of the Afghan mujahidin as superb. He added: We need advice in social and political matters from friendly neighboring countries, especially Iran and Pakistan.

Regarding the exchange of Soviet and mujahidin POW's, he said: Moscow has consistently called for the release of its POW's, which has been partially completed. We are of the opinion, however, that the exchange of both sides' POW's should be completed.

Paper on Need for Unity Among Afghan Mujahidin

*NC0111150390 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
14 Oct 90 p 2*

[Editorial: "Unity—The Key Word for the Afghan Mujahidin"]

[Text] Fierce fighting has been reported during the past two days in Kabul between the Afghan Mujahidin and the Afghan regime's army. It is said that these clashes were led mainly by forces of Hezb-e Eslami Party, which is led by Golbuddin Hekmatyar, and the Islamic Unity Party, led by 'Abdorrasul Sayyaf.

The regime of Afghan President Najibullah in a letter to the United Nations Secretary General has claimed that

the Pakistani army is equipping and aiding "extremist groups" including supporters of Hekmatyar and Sayyaf, and intends to impose another war on Afghanistan.

These latest clashes and events come at a time when tensions within the seven-party Mujahidin alliance based in Peshawar, Pakistan, have increased considerably. Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, President of the Afghan Interim Government, recently announced that he is no longer willing to take part in a meeting with Hekmatyar.

According to certain reports, after the ousting of former Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto, the new prime minister, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, who has expansive and good relations with the Pakistani military, has started fresh activities in collaboration with certain Afghan Mujahidin groups, mainly Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Eslami. Some political observers believe that the recent promise by Hekmatyar for an all-out Mujahidin attack on Kabul came as a result of this support from the Pakistani army.

The impasse reached in the Afghan problem, following the withdrawal of the Soviet aggressive forces in February 1989, should be broken. But because there are no longer any foreign forces in Afghanistan, priority should be given to settling the Afghan issue through peace and democratic means.

If the Mujahidin have reached the conclusion that at this stage a wide-scale military effort is needed to put pressure against the regime of Najibullah it should be noted that such an extensive military operation would need to be approved by all Mujahidin groups. This is particularly poignant as the military action is aimed at the capital and center of Najibullah's regime.

If military action against Kabul takes place without the extensive presence of all Mujahidin groups, this would be short-sighted and most probably would end in failure. Mujahidin groups need to act in unison and avoid going it alone, which would only be detrimental to the movement as a whole.

Pakistani Envoy Explains Latest Developments

*LD3110193290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 31 Oct 90*

[Text] Shemshad Ahmad Khan, Pakistani ambassador to Tehran, has held a meeting with Mr. Besharati, senior deputy minister of foreign affairs of our country, during which he explained the latest developments in Pakistan following the recent elections there. The ambassador expressed his conviction that friendly relations between the two countries will continue as before.

The senior deputy minister of foreign affairs of our country once again emphasized the importance of relations between the two countries and the need to continue such friendly relations.

Iraqi Action Said Detrimental to Interests

*BK0111023190 Tehran IRNA in English 1147 GMT
31 Oct 90*

[Text] Nowshahr, Mazandaran Prov. Oct. 31, (OANA-IRNA)—A senior military official Tuesday [30 October] said that Iraqi occupation of Kuwait which entailed expedition of hegemonic powers to the region, was detrimental to Iran's short and long-term interests.

Navy Commander Rear-Admiral 'Ali Shamkhani stressed that Iran's naval forces keeping pace with other branches of the armed forces will fully maintain their control and vigilance over the Persian Gulf.

Rear-admiral 'Ali Shamkhani arrived in this Caspian city earlier in the day for inspection of the marine sciences academy.

He disclosed that Iran's Navy will be equipped with advanced sub-marines during the first five-year plan.

He added that the U.S. expedition to the Persian Gulf has further exposed Iran's geo-political importance as a country with longest coastal border, more population and greater oil resources in the region.

Under a plan to be carried out in a near future close cooperation between naval forces of the army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps and their joint use of educational and other facilities will become possible, he said.

Paper on U.S. Need for Soviet 'Consent' in Gulf

*NC0111110490 Tehran IRNA in English 1041 GMT
1 Nov 90*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 1, IRNA—A morning daily Thursday [1 November] stressed that any U.S. military move to stage a war in the Persian Gulf region would produce no victory in the absence of the Soviet consent.

In an editorial this morning 'ABRAR' commented on news reports on a greater possibility of a military showdown in the region.

"As long as Moscow is after diplomatic solutions for the crisis in the region, a full-fledged war in the Persian Gulf is not foreseeable," wrote the article.

Moreover, it added, the U.S. cannot alone shoulder the burden of an assault on Iraq without Moscow accepting to become involved in a possible future battle in the Persian Gulf region.

The Soviet diplomacy to perpetuate the current crisis prompted the U.S. to bring to world attention its 40-year long stay in Europe after the Second World War.

The U.S. while keeping its forces in the Persian Gulf on alert, is at the meantime after "diplomatic solutions", including the U.N. economic sanctions, the paper added.

The daily commented that political maneuvers of Moscow and Washington indicated that although the cold war is over and the two superpowers have become closer, new forms of rivalry are being practiced in their bilateral relations.

However, it noted, the Soviet Union while doing as best as it could to maintain relations with Iraq and strengthen the newly-established ties with southern Persian Gulf states, will seize any opportunity to get access to [words indistinct].

But the question is "Will the U.S. repeat its post-World War II experience and remain [words indistinct] Europe for 40 years?" argued [words indistinct].

Further Reaction Regarding Majles Issue

Paper Condemns Factionalism

*PM2610163090 Tehran KEYHAN HAVA'I in Persian
17 Oct 90 p25*

[Editorial: "If this becomes tradition...."]

[Text] Last Sunday [14 October], for some Majles deputies who by taking improper positions had brought the Council of Guardians and the Council of Experts under question, there was a good opportunity to take some steps to correct their views following the statement of the respected leader, and to preempt foreigners' using this dissent as a weapon by announcing those views. But despite a prior announcement by the Majles speaker that there would be an open session on Sunday, a particular faction of deputies with political motives did not attend, which meant the Majles did not hold a session. Many members of this group have previously shown by their wrong decisions regarding various issues in the country, that contrary to their claims they are not thinking about what is best for the nation. Claiming to be followers of velayat-e faqih and the Constitution, and faithful to the oath they took at the start of the Majles, with a short-sighted and superficial understanding of the issues and by their own admission they deliberately closed down the Majles and were proud of this. They even printed their so-called legal reasons for this action in the form of an essay in one of the afternoon newspapers. According to one of their explanations, the deputies in question did not attend the open session of the Majles on Sunday because their opposition had spoken against official organizations in the country during their pre-agenda speeches.

The Majles is a place for the exchange of views. Each deputy has the right to express his views to the entire nation which means that there are certain to be differences of opinion among the deputies. These differences of opinion, as long as they are within the framework of principles and are fair, and as long as they keep in mind the good of the community, improve the progress of the work of the Majles. Of course it is not acceptable to have some deputies close down the Majles with the excuse that there are some who disagree with them.

In another part of the essay written by the deputies, it is being claimed that they did not take part in the open session because there was a plan that was being mentioned which was against the Constitution. At this time one must ask if there have ever been any plans which have been against the Constitution? Will there be some similar plans in the future? Of course the answer to these questions is positive. At this rate these deputies should never attend any sessions at all! Of course, as in the past, this plan may not have been passed at all because it contradicted the Constitution, especially since it had a lot of opposition. Second, even if it had passed, it would have most certainly been rejected by the Council of Guardians. So this is not a convincing reason for these deputies not to attend the session. Another explanation indicates the weak reasoning of these gentlemen. It was mentioned in the essay that one reason why they did not attend the session was the intentional action of the Majles speaker in reading out the names of those deputies who were absent. The list of those who were absent was read out two days later on Tuesday. We could on the other hand accept that the gentlemen are magicians and knew from beforehand the intentions of the Majles leadership!

It is unacceptable to have the Majles become the scene of factionalism and a bad atmosphere, to have each faction abuse the situation at hand to play with its dignity. This way the people see an atmosphere building up against the legal bodies of this country such as the Council of Guardians and the Council of Experts one day, and the next, the opposing faction closing down the Majles, the highest decisionmaking body in the land after the leadership, and try to make it lose its credibility, thus establishing an evil tradition. If this takes hold one would lose hope of having a healthy lawmaking body in the country.

In conclusion we would like to stress the positive aspect of an exchange of different points of view in the country. We see the existence of factions that oppose one another to be dangerous for the country and we advise both factions to move within the framework drawn out by the velayat-e faqih. If this is not done, without a doubt they will be cast aside by the followers of velayat-e faqih.

TEHRAN TIMES on Factionalism

NC0111172490 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
25 Oct 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Constructive Criticism, Not Revengeful Behavior Needed"]

[Text] The Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i in a speech yesterday severely criticized the behavior of the two existing political factions in the country over the recent Assembly of Experts elections, and said such behavior was unexpected.

In the Assembly of Experts elections held on October 8, one of the two factions expressed their dissatisfaction at

the condition that candidates for the assembly had to pass a special examination to qualify for nomination.

Members of this faction criticized the other, using from various platforms [as published]. Verbal conflicts between the two continued for some time and its impact were seen in the Majles, the press and the mass media at large.

It was expected that after the elections, tension between the two factions would be reduced. But unfortunately the effect has been felt even until recent days.

Ayatollah Khamene'i in his speech invited the two factions to give up their antagonism and come closer to each other. He also criticized their crude behavior.

When the late Imam Khomeyni was alive, he too repeatedly advised the two factions to avoid enmity and revenge-seeking against each other. In one of his messages, the late Imam said: "I call on all the gentlemen not to fight with each other, not to fill the newspapers with bad words against one another and criticism of each other. Criticism should not mean seeking revenge. Criticism should be done in a correct manner." (Sept. 1, 1980)

This is the best advice for the intellectual advancement of society. In fact the existence of differing thinking in a society and its free expression significantly helps the soundness and growth of that society. But criticizing one another for the purpose of taking revenge, together with "absolutism" and efforts to "eliminate the other faction" is something which is not compatible with either Islam or democracy.

Moreover such behavior can also inflict serious harm on national interests. Today the sensitive situation in the region requires unity and close coordination in foreign policy in decisionmaking as elsewhere.

The imperialist and Zionist mass media have always exaggerated issues related to our country and will not lose the opportunity to take advantage of this issue. The heads of these concerns know very well that in any country in which there is freedom and democracy there are various factions and parties that at times can lead to angry exchanges between them. The same should naturally be the case in our country, but in fact the differences of views among the different factions is more minute. This is because none of the factions have any differences on the principles of the revolution and the system.

But it should be borne in mind that since Iran has accepted the sovereignty of Islam, un-Islamic behavior should be avoided.

Qom Theologians Support Khamene'i

LD2610124590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Qom's spiritual leaders, theology students, and various strata of the people held marches in that town

today to show their committed support for the recent remarks of the honorable leader.

The Central News Unit correspondent reports from Qom: Following the recent remarks made by the honorable leader in which he supported the Majles and announced his dissatisfaction with a few Majles deputies who, contrary to the interests of the system and of the nation, strike blows against the sanctity and sacredness of that glorious assembly, this morning the combatant theology students and spiritual leaders, bazaar merchants, tradesmen, and various strata of the people of Qom gathered at the immaculate shrine of Her Holiness Ma'sumeh, peace be upon her, and marched toward the Jerusalem prayer house in that town.

The marchers chanted slogans, such as "Opponents of the leadership are opponents of Islam," "Death to Israel," "Death to America," "Death to opponents of the velayat-e faqih [supreme jurisconsult, Khamene'i]," and "God protect us, Khamene'i is our leader," and then gathered at Qom's Friday prayers site. Chanting God is the greatest, marchers supported the six-point resolution which was read out at the end of the march.

The resolution expresses complete support for the velayat-e faqih, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, and condemns any opposition or stance against that illustrious leader, by any person or group. The resolution also warns those which the honorable leader addressed, announces respect for the high position of the Islamic Consultative Majles, and condemns any weakening or disregard for the sacredness of that assembly which can be regarded as an act of opposition against the foundations of the revolution. The resolution also thanks the Islamic ummah for their extensive participation in the elections to the Assembly of Experts and praises the Council of Guardians for safeguarding the accuracy of the elections.

In the resolution, the marchers, abiding by the instructions of the honorable leader, announce their complete readiness to support the Islamic message of the people of Palestine and to endeavor toward achieving those goals, and called on the the judicial power to deal without mercy with those few Majles deputies who act contrary to the interests of the system and of the Islamic revolution, and to implement its legal and revolutionary duty.

Yazdi Praises Khamene'i Leadership

LD3110175190 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1600 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Excerpts] At a gathering of the officials in charge of the judicial and executive offices of Babol township, Mr. Yazdi, head of the judicial power, stressed that new equipment on information transfer must be utilized in judicial offices. Our colleagues from Sari and Gorgan have a report on the visit of the head of judicial power to Mazandaran:

[Unidentified reporter] On the third day of his tour of the province of Mazandaran, Mr. Yazdi, head of the judicial power, arrived in Babol this morning together with members of his team. [passage omitted]

Before noon, Mr. Yazdi also addressed remarks to a gathering of the Babol clergy. While explaining the status and lofty position of the velayat [guardianship of the Muslim ummah] in the Islamic system, he praised the characteristics of the imam-like leadership style of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. He said: The exalted leader of the Islamic revolution is a fully qualified faqih [jurisconsult]; he has a special knowledge of the world problems, and now he shoulders the position of the guardianship of the cause for all the Muslims of the world. [passage omitted]

***Paper Reports Bayat's Accusation**

91AS0083H London KEYHAN in Persian 18 Oct 90 p 2

[Excerpts] The noisy clashes in the Majles, which led to scuffling among the preacher deputies, led to the disclosure of some of the secrets of the Islamic Republic regime's leaders.

According to the newspaper RESALAT (3 October), which is in the Mohtashemi-Karrubi opposition camp, Hojjat ol-Eslam Bayat, deputy speaker of the Majles and an important member of this group, made a secret trip to England this year in the month of Khordad [22 May-21 June] to meet with officials of the Church of Canterbury, and he promised to send them an invitation to come to Iran. After Hojjat ol-Eslam Bayat's return to Tehran from London, he was not willing to discuss his trip to London and his talks with the English and with officials of the Church of Canterbury with the Majles Foreign Affairs Commission.

The newspaper RESALAT reported Hojjat ol-Eslam Bayat's "quiet" trip and his secret talks with "church" officials satirically in the column "Conversation", told in the words of a professor and a student. [passage omitted]

We note that in the disputes that broke out over the elections for the Assembly of Experts, deputy Majles speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Bayat openly opposed the Council of Guardians and criticized them at a Majles session. He said: As a deputy who sometimes stands behind these gentlemen and prays at the Tehran Friday prayer service, I say here that I now doubt that henceforth I will be able to pray behind them. He added: You cannot fight America with these capitalist leeches. Instead of a green light, they have shown America and Britain an open door. He claimed: I am ready to give a test to most of the members of the Council of Guardians, and I would make a better score than most of them. What are they trying to do?

The subject of Hojjat ol-Eslam Bayat's secret ties with officials of the Church of Canterbury has become one of the topics of the day in Tehran, so that Majles deputy Nateq-Nuri brought the subject up in his talk at the Refa'

School. He said: If we say that we ought not to establish relations with England, France, and America and their satellites, then why do they establish ties in contradiction of this when individuals make arrangements somewhere or go on a trip? This is duplicity and hypocrisy. If we repeat slogans of one kind at the podium, but in practice establish such relations, this is the very thing the Prophet of God called hypocrisy.

Relatives Appeal for Release of Hostages

*LD2710100490 Tehran IRNA in English 0821 GMT
27 Oct 90*

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 27, IRNA—Relatives of Iranian hostages held in Lebanon have appealed to family members of all hostages to cooperate and secure release of their beloved ones regardless of their nationality.

The group of four who left here for Ireland at the invitation of relatives of the ex-hostages, Brian Keenan, on Friday [26 October] made the remark before departure.

Five Iranians nationals were kidnapped by Falangists in Lebanon in 1982, the first who were taken hostage there.

Reza Akhavan, father of Kazem Akhavan ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY (IRNA) photojournalist, who was among the group, told IRNA that they were after the release of all hostages regardless of their nationality whether Iranian, Western or those captured by the Zionist regime.

He criticized governments who are working for the release of certain hostages and said that human rights applied to all equally and that such a move was against principles of human rights.

Raed added that he missed his father more whenever he watched released war prisoners on the TV screen or when he looked at his father's photos.

Another 400 POW's in Iraq To Be Released

*LD0111115990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 1 Nov 90*

[Text] The names of another group of Iranian and Iraqi POW's, numbering more than 400, have been exchanged between the two countries during the past few days. According to an ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY report, once the lists of the names of these POW's have been duly completed and exchanged, we will advise the families of the names of Iranian POW's who have been convicted in Iraqi courts and who are to be freed soon.

The report states that the Office of Iraqi POW's in Iran, in declaring their readiness to exchange these POW's, has already made the preliminary arrangements.

Editorial Considers POW Exchange Problems

*NC0111164590 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
24 Oct 90 p 2*

[Editorial: "Move Toward Resolving Outstanding POW's"]

[Text] Iran and Iraq are on the verge of completely solving the problem of the exchange of prisoners of war. So far both sides have exchanged some 75,000 PoWs. The Iraqis claim now they no longer have many Iranian PoWs. They say they have 230 prisoners, who have committed 'crimes', but they have agreed to forgive and release them. Iran will also respond in the same manner.

But here two outstanding problems remain. First of all, Iran still has thousands of Iraqi prisoners. It seems certain that the number of Iraqi PoWs in Iran is much more than the number of Iranian PoWs in Iraq. This in itself poses a problem with respect to freeing of an equal number of prisoners by both countries as has been the practice. A decision on the matter would be up to Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

Informed sources say that when Iran is assured that there are no longer any Iranian POWs in Iraq, (and Iran is not yet assured of this), it will unilaterally release all Iraqi PoWs. Iran's policy has been for a full and complete exchange of PoWs on both sides and in this respect the issue of numbers would fall into insignificance.

The second problem remaining concerns the issue of PoWs from other foreign countries, who were captured by Iran while fighting alongside the Iraqi army as mercenaries. Most of these mercenaries are from Arab countries.

It would seem in respect to the aim of accelerating the peace process between Iran and Iraq, that it would be better not to take a harsh attitude on these deceived foreign mercenaries. But what is unfortunate, is that the governments of the countries, to which these mercenaries belong, do not seem to feel much of a sense of responsibility on the issue.

For instance, there are hundreds of Egyptian PoWs in Iran yet the Egyptian leaders in Cairo have not made any serious diplomatic efforts to secure their release.

To resolve this issue and to show Islamic goodwill it is hoped that the Islamic Republic of Iran will make arrangements to hand over the foreign mercenaries to the Moslem Ulema of their countries.

Paper Comments on Resumption of Ties With Iraq

*NC0111162990 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
17 Oct 90 p 2*

[Editorial: "Iran-Iraq Relations Proper for Security in region"]

[Text] The re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Iran and Iraq was officially announced on

Sunday [14 October]. The embassies of the two countries were simultaneously opened in Tehran and Baghdad after a gap of three years. At this stage, agreement seems to have been reached to keep relations at the charge d'affaires level.

Certain countries, which in the past two months have had enmity with Iraq, are not hiding their dissatisfaction at the re-establishment of Irano-Iraqi relations. Apparently these countries reason that while Iraq is being politically isolated by the international community, why should the Islamic Republic open its embassy in Baghdad.

The answer as such is very clear. These countries already have their own embassies which are currently active in Baghdad at ambassadorial level. So far, no Western country has even recalled its envoy from Baghdad in protest at Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

It should be an acceptable fact for these countries that political settlement of the Persian Gulf crisis or, indeed, any basic plan for the region, is unlikely to succeed without Iranian help. Given this, it naturally follows that if Iran is to play an active role in bringing back peace and security to the Persian Gulf geopolitical region, then Iran should have a vital presence in the capitals of the Persian Gulf countries.

The official to fulfill this is for Iran to have permanent and direct contacts with the leaders of these countries through its embassies and ambassadors. [sentence as published]

Some may suggest the Iranian government should play its role in the crisis only indirectly or through a third party or parties. Such methods is not really acceptable and is only for the coveted world of wheeling and dealing.

In view of this, should Iran and Iraq proceed to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level, this should come as no surprise. By no means, however, would it imply that there is the slightest deviation in Iran's often repeated stance that Iraq should unconditionally and immediately withdraw its occupation forces from Kuwait.

Papers Differ on Ties With Saudi Arabia

*LD3010162990 Tehran IRNA in English 1133 GMT
30 Oct 90*

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 30, IRNA—Two morning dailies Tuesday [30 October] commented on the resumption of Tehran-Riyadh ties with the English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' favouring and the Persian daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' disapproving it due to the Saudi regime's past policy towards Iran.

"Iran and Saudi Arabia are two strategic countries of the Persian Gulf" the first for its geo-political location and the second because of its abundant oil, wrote an English daily.

According to the paper the two countries are the two poles of any political or economic arrangement to be set up for the region.

"This fact along with other cultural and historical similarities require that they establish mutually beneficial ties based on respect for each other's independence," added the article.

It stressed that Iran can take advantage of its rightfulness about what it has always said about Iraq and establish "a friendly and honorable tie with Saudi Arabia".

As far as hajj, the biggest impediment on the way of resumption of ties is concerned Saudis must be ready to listen and be flexible, commented the daily.

"The new world Islamic movement can no longer view hajj as simply a ritualistic ceremony devoid of any political meaning," noted the article.

However, it concluded, the forum was made from the very beginning to bring Muslims together, noting that hajj is a religio-political process, "but with nowhere calling for interference in the internal affairs of Saudi Arabia."

However, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI blamed Saudi Arabia for being Iraq's main culprit in its eight-year long war against Iran.

Therefore, the paper stressed, the Saudi regime should be regarded a partner in Iraq's war crime and treated accordingly.

"Iranian people can never forget the extent of crimes, destruction and hostility of enemies of humanity," the article noted adding that they should be treated in the way demanded by the Iranian nation.

It also pointed to other Saudi crimes including the 1987 massacre of some 400 hajj pilgrims and 4,000 other pilgrims in the Mina tunnel stampede in this year's hajj rituals.

Under the critical status quo, the daily commented, while the Saudi regime has paved the way for the military occupation of the holy lands, for various reasons it sees it to its advantage to resume relations with Iran.

Therefore, for this same reason, resumption of ties with Saudi Arabia should be studied from all dimensions, the editorial stressed.

"This is a point where the nation will have the final say," it said concluding, officials are "servitors of the nation" and are honored to serve materialise sacred ideals of the revolution and the nation [as received]."

***Relations With Saudi Arabia Improve**

*910AS0105B London KEYHAN in Persian
11 Oct 90 p 1*

[Text] Following the visit and talks of 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic, with Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister of the Saudi government, in New York and the expressions of hope by both for improvement in relations between the

two sides, diplomatic experts predict that soon diplomatic relations between the regime of the Islamic Republic and the Saudi government will be restored.

The foreign ministers of the two governments met and talked two weeks ago in the General Assembly meeting of the United Nations in New York. In this meeting, the issues of the Persian Gulf and relations between the two sides were discussed. According to a report by IRNA, concerning the Hajj pilgrimage ceremonies, Velayati had said: "The Iranian nation emphasizes the performance of the Hajj pilgrimage in its proper form as a very important political worship obligation and hopes that the existing obstacles to the Hajj pilgrimage will be removed as soon as possible."

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal also said in response, "We are very eager for the Muslim people of Iran to be able to travel to Saudi Arabia this year for the Hajj pilgrimage, and our government will do its utmost to carry out the Hajj obligations in the best possible way for Iranian Muslims."

Simultaneous with the publication of the report concerning the meeting and talks between Velayati and the Saudi foreign minister, Sheikh Mehdi Karrubi, who is hospitalized, used strong language against the leaders of the Saudi government and in meeting with the members of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, called the leaders of Saudi Arabia traitors who must await the wrath of Muslims."

Engineer Torkan, the minister of defense and armed forces logistics, also in a meeting with a delegation from Sudan attacked the Saudi government and said: "The Saudi regime's invitation to foreigners to come into the vicinity of the sacred places has revealed to Muslims the nature of the Saudis more than before."

Nevertheless, political experts believe that despite the existing opposition by the other factions of the Islamic Republic regime and contrary to the will and testament of Ayatollah Khomeini, the government of Hashemi-Rafsanjani will resume its diplomatic relations with the Saudi government.

TEHRAN TIMES Urges 'Demolition' of Israel

NC0111162290 Tehran *TEHRAN TIMES* in English
16 Oct 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Dump-Israel Campaign Should Be Promoted"]

[Text] Tehran was scene of a very angry anti-Israeli demonstration yesterday. The rally was held in protest to actual attempts by the Zionist regime to turn the occupied lands into a massive killing field. So many Palestinian people, especially young men, have been gunned down by Israeli forces over the past week. The Iranian capital was witness to another massive anti-Israeli rally last Friday [12 October] prelude Friday prayer ceremonies in the city.

Iran's Islamic Revolution is an avowed enemy of Zionism and its bankrupt ideology, based on racism. Islamic Iran will not relent before the illegitimate Zionist state is actually dissolved.

But regrettably the Zionist regime is still around, thanks to the compromising attitude and shortcomings of most Arab rulers.

Tel Aviv has been able to survive the global opposition to its very existence also because of the unqualified support it continues to receive from Washington. U.S. vetoes have greatly helped the Zionist state to weather many global storms that have buffeted it because of its inhuman actions and approaches. The U.S. has also thoroughly disgraced itself in the eyes of Moslems for its unholy alignment with Israel.

But the recent wave of crimes committed against Moslems in the occupied lands by the Zionist forces of brutality and coercion have once again infuriated the Moslem masses to the point of inducing them to launch a united attack against Tel Aviv in all fields. This opportunity should not be lost. Moslem forces, and leaders in particular, should seize this opportunity to warm up and promote this already existing hate and dump campaign against Tel Aviv.

Those simpletons who are still brooding over ways to compromise with Israel should have realized by now that Israel listens to and understands only one language with which it is familiar, force and coercion. Some of these compromising forces in the Moslem lands however are not doing this out of naivety but rather out of sheer deliberate treachery.

Deals such as Camp David Accords, as has now been proven to everyone, will never be able to restore the rights of Moslems. These treacherous dealings with the usurpers of Qods [Jerusalem] will only serve to legitimize an illegitimate regime in Tel Aviv encourage further its anti-Moslem position. [sentence as published]

The demolition of Israel should top any deal that might be made in settling the Palestinian issue whose solution will no doubt be necessary to the settlement of many Middle Eastern issues.

For the time being, however, the militant Palestinian forces should continue their rightful and manly struggle against the forces of Zionism with the assurance that Moslem masses everywhere are staunchly behind them.

***Pasdaran Commander Killed in Kordestan**

91AS0083K London *KEYHAN* in Persian 18 Oct 90 p 2

[Text] Sa'id Towfiqi, revolutionary guard commander of operations, was attacked and killed as he was leaving his home in Sanandaj.

Unrest and armed clashes in the Kordestan area have recently increased, and heavy casualties have been inflicted on revolutionary guard units in Kordestan.

Majles deputy Ne'matollah Ja'farilu also discussed these clashes and has called upon military and security officials to put an end to this unrest. In his Majles speech he confirmed that "every day we are faced with the mutilated body of a dear one."

In its newsletter, the Kurdish Democratic Party has published names and descriptions of a large number of the regime's security and police forces who have been killed or captured in Kordestan.

Commentary Reviews Results of Antidrug Measures
NC0111134590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Commentary by Central News Unit Research Group]

[Excerpts] In the name of God.

According to the verdicts issued by the Islamic Revolution Court and the endorsement and authorization of the prosecutor general, another group of drug smugglers, the merchants of death, were executed on charges of the sale and purchase of opium in the cities. In the third phase of the Wal 'Adiat scheme and the continued legislative campaign against smugglers, the Islamic Revolution Committee accelerated its crackdown on the smugglers, despite numerous obstacles in the path of the implementation of laws for the campaign against narcotics. [passage omitted]

According to latest statistics, in the past year and a half of this campaign, as of 23 July 1990, 400 drug production and distribution networks have been destroyed in all the provinces, more than 35,000 smugglers arrested, and 55,000 tons of narcotics seized.

Similarly, 517 weapons and 890 vehicles were seized in 90 crackdown operations in the border and desert areas over the past 18 months of the campaign. This year, the Antidrug Headquarters endeavored to exert greater pressure in the border and desert areas, and to thwart the transfer and passage of drugs in these areas.

Some of the border villages are being evacuated to establish greater control of the eastern areas, and another area has been declared a prohibited zone. Recent operations, which involved fierce clashes in the eastern border regions, are evidence of the intensity of the activities and headquarters' efforts for control and greater surveillance over the eastern borders.

As a result of these efforts, the bands of smugglers have resorted to burglary, abductions, brigandry on the highways, and creating insecurity in these areas to compensate for the loss of income from their drug consignments.

It has been reported that at the end of the first half of 1369 [beginning 21 March 1990], all the country's provinces witnessed a remarkable decrease in the incidence of the distribution and use of drugs. In addition, according to news reports, the rising prices of narcotics

are in themselves a proof of the difficulties in gaining access to the distribution and production networks in the cities. [passage omitted]

In the present circumstances, what can further the campaign on all levels is the coordination and unified efforts of all the organizations that are members of the Antidrug Headquarters, such as the Ministries of Education, Health and Treatment, the Judiciary, prison organizations, and all the officials. The boosting of rehabilitation centers, bolstering of the Judiciary's efforts to accelerate the review of smugglers' dossiers, and speeding up of the implementation of verdicts can all contribute collectively to the antidrug scheme.

***State-Owned Companies To Be Dissolved**

91AS0105G London KEYHAN in Persian 11 Oct 90 p 4

[Text] The Islamic Republic is trying to dissolve 800 production and industrial companies and transfer them to the private sector. At the present time, a committee under the supervision of 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of the Islamic Republic, has begun to examine the situation with regard to the production and industrial companies in question. The report concerning the possibility of transferring 800 government companies to the private sector was given to a group of Iranians residing in the United States some time ago by Mohsen Nurbakhsh, the minister of economic affairs and finance of the Islamic Republic. Addressing a gathering of students and Iranians residing in the United States, he said: "The World Bank report on the economic situation of Iran cites the absence of foreign loans as a distinguishing feature of the economy of the Islamic Republic."

The minister of economic affairs and finance of the Islamic Republic pointed out the main lines of the five-year developmental plan and said: "Economic modification for the purpose of normalizing the economic balance of the country and advancing the developmental plans is one of the goals of the economic policies of the Islamic Republic."

Nurbakhsh said to the participants in the gathering: "The decision concerning the transfer of 500 government companies is soon to be announced."

The above-mentioned official announced that based on the five-year plan, the revenues of the Islamic Republic from non-oil exports have been projected at \$17 billion. Reaching this goal will require changes in the traditional market and raising the level of export technology.

An expert on the economic affairs of Iran present at the gathering of Iranians in the United States referred to these statements by the minister of economic affairs of the Islamic Republic and said: "The minister of economic affairs of the Islamic Republic did not explain, considering the passage of a year and a half since the start of the five-year economic plan and that the export of non-oil goods and merchandise thus far is valued at

merely about \$1.7 billion, how the officials of the Islamic Republic will be able to export in the time left, that is, 3.5 years, about \$15.5 billion in non-oil materials and goods."

***Import of Vehicles, Foodstuff From Germany Up**
91AS0105J London KEYHAN in Persian 11 Oct 90 p 4

[Text] Last year, the Federal Republic of Germany exported significant amounts of goods to the Islamic Republic, making that country the largest market for its products in the Middle East, next to Saudi Arabia. According to published statistics by the foreign trade statistical agency of the FRG, in 1989, that country sold goods to the Islamic Republic at a value equal to the total amount sold to three European industrial nations, France, England, and Italy. At the same time, the trade sources in Bonn announced that the FRG has continued expanding its economic relations with Tehran this year, and in all areas, particularly in the export of vehicles and foodstuff, there has been a significant increase compared to 1989. A statistical journal of foreign trade in the FRG announced some time ago that the automobile industry of that country has made a profit of more than \$43 million in the first quarter of this year (1990) in exporting trucks, used busses, passenger cars, pickup trucks, and motorcycles. A comparison of this amount with the value of vehicles purchased by the Islamic Republic in a similar period last year shows an increase of 43 percent. An analysis of the foreign trade statistics of the FRG in the first quarter of this year indicates that the Islamic Republic has also increased the purchase of foodstuff and essential goods from Bonn during this period, and with the purchase of about \$21 million worth of goods, the value of the import of foodstuff from the FRG compared to a similar period in 1989 increased by about 30 percent. German trade experts predict that considering the increase in the volume and value of Iranian imports from that country in the first three months of this year, it is likely that the value of the purchases by the Islamic Republic from Germany this year will amount to about \$1.8-\$2 billion. In 1989, the FRG exported to the Islamic Republic a total amount of goods and merchandise valued at \$1,345,000,000. Statistical sources in Bonn have stated that the total value of the exports of the FRG to Iran in the first three months of January, February, and March of this year is up to about \$453 million. These sources also announced that last year, despite the increase in the value of exports from the FRG to the Islamic Republic, imports from Iran to that country did not increase significantly, and in some areas of trade, especially the import of Iranian carpets, the figures show a decrease in value and volume of imports. A carpet merchant working in Hamburg told KEYHAN that at the present time, the market for Iranian handwoven carpets in the FRG is in a total recession, and the importers of Indian, Pakistani, and Bulgarian carpets have been able to take the market away from Iranian merchants by offering inexpensive carpets.

Joint Trade Agreement With Bulgaria Signed

LD0211103690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] As a result of a memorandum of understanding signed by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Bulgaria, the volume of commercial trade between the two countries will increase to \$500 million.

Returning from Sofia last night, Minister of Agriculture Kalantari told our reporter: At the seventh joint meeting between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Bulgaria the two sides signed an agreement covering the spheres of industry, transportation, oil and gas, water, and irrigation according to which Iran will export 1 million tons of oil to Bulgaria during 1991. He added: In the sphere of industry, our country's heavy industry products will be exported to Bulgaria in exchange for imports of machine tools and heavy machinery.

Radio, TV Cooperation Accord Signed With Japan

LD2710122890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, a four-point memorandum of understanding was signed with Japan at the end of the visit of Mr. (Tsato Tsuchiya), head of the Japanese Institute of Cultural Research of Radio and Television, who had come to Tehran at the invitation of Mr. Zowraq, head of the Center for Program Research, Studies, and Evaluation of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran [VVIRI].

On the basis of the memorandum of understanding, the Japanese state radio and television and the VVIRI will cooperate in the exchange of radio and television information and research. Consultation services and research barter agreements are also included in the memorandum of understanding.

***Paper on LE MONDE Report on Experts Election**

91AS0083A London KEYHAN in Persian 18 Oct 90 pp 1,8

[Text] After announcing the results of the elections for the Assembly of Experts, the Paris newspaper LE MONDE gave a detailed report on conditions in Iran. It wrote: The regime's social and ideological foundations are crumbling day by day, and the elections for the Assembly of Experts illustrate the rift that has appeared since Khomeyni's death between the government's forces and the nation's religious institutions.

LE MONDE reveals:

Khamene'i recently sent a friendly and accommodating letter to Ayatollah Montazeri, who was removed in disgrace in March 1989 as Khomeyni's successor, in order perhaps to improve his relations with the clergy, but Montazeri answered in a disillusioned tone, "The faithful no longer believe in me or you."

Ayatollah Montazeri's answer to Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i is a true reflection of the public view of the ruling regime, and at the same time it reveals the deep differences between the religious groups.

Following the clashes in the Majles prior to the elections for the Assembly of Experts, and after the results were announced, the serious conflicts between the rival groups intensified.

Reports reaching KEYHAN state that there were demonstrations in Qom for and against the ruling group in the days after the elections were held. It is said that an attack was made on one of these demonstrations, in which Sheikh Sadeq Khalkhali and his supporters gave out slogans against the ruling group, and there was a sharp clash between supporting and opposing groups.

According to the same report, Sheikh Sadeq Khalkhali, whose position was endangered when his competence as a person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence was rejected, and who feared that they might arrest and try him, on Friday locked himself in chains to a rail near the grave of Ayatollah Khomeyni at Behesht-e Zahra, and took refuge there. This report states that since Hojjat ol-Eslam Ansari's insistence on opening Khalkhali's chains and bringing him out of Ayatollah Khomeyni's tomb was ineffective, they made an intermediary of Ahmad Khomeyni, and finally he went to Ayatollah Khomeyni's tomb, talked with Sheikh Sadeq Khalkhali, and persuaded him that it would be better if he opened the chains and left there.

After opening the chains, Sheikh Sadeq Khalkhali went to Qom and organized demonstrations, but he faced vigorous opposition from others.

Another report from Tehran states that fighting between various religious groups at Sepahsalar Mosque ended with the beating of Hojjat ol-Eslam Emami-Kashani, a member of the Council of Guardians, and the group opposed to Rafsanjani and Khamene'i had the upper hand in this clash.

According to LE MONDE, Sheikh Mehdi Karrubi was hospitalized because of his intervention in the Majles scuffle.

Concerning the clash at the Majles, LE MONDE writes:

The Council of Guardians is evidently under the influence of the conservative clerical faction, and its members have been chosen by Khamene'i. They were obliged to issue a statement announcing that those registering to run for the Assembly of Experts must have sufficient theological knowledge and a spotless reputation and record, and at all events they must be accepted in the selections made by the Council of Guardians.

This admissions examination for adults has created a disturbance in Tehran's political and religious circles. There have been real clashes in the Majles in which the hard-liners have attacked the Rafsanjani-Khamene'i duo

for wanting to push aside the clergy, which is unacceptable in their eyes and would probably express an opinion about an independent government. In one severe clash in the Majles, Speaker Mehdi Karrubi slipped, broke his pelvis and was hospitalized.

Despite this, the triumph of Rafsanjani and Khamene'i, who have shown remarkable unity despite their past differences, is not expected to last. This triumph, because of a fully preordained vote and the indifference of the people, who turned out for the elections in extremely small numbers, is not credible. These elections made especially clear the breach that has developed between government power and religious institutions since the death of Khomeyni.

At the end of its report, LE MONDE writes:

The appointment of Khamene'i as religious leader of Iran on the day after the death of Khomeyni with the blessing of a letter attributed to the dead imam has created many doubts about the religious legitimacy of Khomeyni's successor. He had none of the qualifications specified in the Constitution, and two months later, once more on the basis of a new Constitution, he was elected "to eliminate any form of possible misunderstanding."

Former Minister of Intelligence Reyshahri has written that at that time about 15 clergymen were executed, some on charges of homosexuality.

*IRI, Iraq Exchange Diplomats

91AS0083B London KEYHAN in Persian 18 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] Following a four-day trip to Tehran by an Iraqi delegation, on Sunday 22 Mehr (14 October), the resumption of political relations between the regime of the Islamic Republic and the government of Iraq was officially announced in a joint statement issued in Tehran and Baghdad.

Concurrent with the issuance of the joint statement, it was announced that Iraq's charge d'affaires and embassy staff would come to Tehran on Sunday.

The Islamic government's Foreign Ministry announced that the charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic's embassy would be sent to Iraq soon.

In the joint statement, it said: To normalize relations and enable the two nations to renew diplomatic contacts, the two countries have agreed to reopen their embassies on Sunday 22 Mehr 1369, equivalent to 14 October 1990.

The joint statement said nothing new concerning the differences between the two sides, such as resuming the exchange of prisoners and marking the land and sea borders between the two countries, yet the stated goal of the Iraqi delegation's trip to Tehran—led by Hisam al-Zahawi, Iraq's deputy foreign minister for international affairs—in addition to normalizing relations, was to solve remaining problems.

In view of Sunday's joint statement, one can surmise that the problems concerning resuming the exchange of prisoners and marking the land and sea borders have not been solved.

The host of Iraq's deputy foreign minister was Manuchehr Motaki, the Islamic deputy foreign minister for international affairs, who tried three weeks ago on a trip to Baghdad to solve the differences, especially the matter of resumption of the exchange of prisoners.

In a telephone contact with the Islamic government's Foreign Ministry, spokesmen for the Foreign Ministry and other offices were not willing to discuss the results of the talks concerning other differences with the government of Iraq. They also declined to confirm or deny who will go to Baghdad as the Islamic Republic's charge d'affaires in Iraq.

It is said that the supervisor of the First Political Office, named Javad Torkabadi, will be sent to Iraq as the charge d'affaires.

***Regime Admits Voters Shunned Experts' Election**

91AS0083C London KEYHAN in Persian 18 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] The results of the elections for the Assembly of Experts, which were held last week on Monday, 8 October, in 18 provinces and 23,121 precincts after severe clashes between the regime's various groups, have been announced.

After the votes were counted, the Islamic government announced that 12 million people, or 46 percent of the eligible voters, went to the polls, but the total votes cast was just over 11 million (11,261,442). Yet there has been extensive propaganda in recent weeks encouraging the people to take part in the elections for the Assembly of Experts, and for the first time there were even full-page advertisements in the nation's newspapers with pictures and biographies of the clerics up for election.

Political observers in Tehran see the refusal of the people to take part in the elections for the Assembly of Experts as a serious defeat for the Islamic Republic regime, and they say the mistake made by Pafsanjani and Khamene'i was that although they knew the people were quite dissatisfied with conditions in the country, they presented participation in these elections as a renewed oath of allegiance to the leader and the government of the Islamic Republic, and now that it has become clear that even by the regime's own admission only 46 percent of the people qualified took part in the voting, the regime has obviously shaken its alleged religious legitimacy. It must be noted that to increase the number of voters, they lowered the minimum age to 15 years, and they did not ask to see picture identification cards.

We reported in the previous issue of KEYHAN the Islamic Republic regime's defeat in the elections for the Assembly of Experts, confirmed by statements from eye

witnesses in Tehran, and now the regime's optimistic estimate of the number of people voting has confirmed this reality.

After the elections for the Assembly of Experts were held, Reza Pahlavi's office announced in a published statement that the public's failure to participate in the elections for the Assembly of Experts is not surprising in view of the oppressive conditions and the public's severe dissatisfaction with the regime, and the public expression of no-confidence with the Islamic Republic regime has proven once more to the people of the world this regime's lack of religious legitimacy.

A study of the roster of those elected shows that almost all the people emerging from the ballot box are affiliated with the Khamene'i and Rafsanjani group.

The Tehran Militant Clerics Association, affiliated with Ayatollah Mehdi Khamene'i and the Qom Society of Seminary Teachers published a list of their candidates before the elections, and all but three of them, all supporters of Khamene'i and Rafsanjani, were elected as members of the Assembly of Experts.

With the removal of Mohtashemi's supporters from the Assembly of Experts, the danger has now been removed that they might be able to get a majority of the votes in the Assembly of Experts and remove Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i from the position of leader and chief jurisconsult.

Informed people in Tehran predict that in the coming months the Majles, most of whose members are supporters of Mohtashemi and were selected by him, will turn into an arena for conflict and severe clashes between the two groups.

Please see the names of those elected to the Assembly of Experts on page three.

***Paper on Economic Agreements With France**

91AS0083D London KEYHAN in Persian
18 Oct 90 pp 1, 11

[Text] With the competition between industrial and exporting countries to dominate Iran's markets at its peak, and now that the head of the Central Bank is ready to guarantee foreign investments in Iran, after a four-day official trip to Tehran French minister of industry Roger Fauroux returned to his country last Sunday with a suitcase full of contracts valued at billions of francs that completely compensate French industry for losses caused by the Persian Gulf crisis and the economic embargo of Iraq. Economic relations between France and the Islamic Republic, which were described recently as "strategic" by Tehran officials, are beginning at a time when French industries are still demanding \$10 billion (minus interest) from the Islamic Republic because of the cancellation of their contracts in the years before the revolution.

Roger Fauroux, who went to our country along with a large economic delegation including five directors of France's largest industrial companies to take part in the 16th International Tehran Exposition, said that France will "participate actively" in the reconstruction of an Iran ruined by the eight-year war, and that the French government supports travel to Iran by French directors, technicians, and institutions.

While the Islamic Republic continues to speak of "self-sufficiency" and "economic independence", French industries hope, by increasing their exports to Iran, to take a larger share of the \$100 billion the Islamic Republic has announced it intends to spend by 1995 for rebuilding Iran.

In Tehran, the director of the Technip company, who was recently able to sign with Rafsanjani's government a contract to rebuild the Bandar Shahpur (Bandar Khomeyni) Petrochemical Complex, was able this time to sign another contract for 2.2 billion francs to build a petrochemical complex in Tebriz. The Alsthom company, which was active in Iran in the years prior to the revolution, was able to obtain a contract to sell cars and technical equipment for the Tehran metro, as well as a contract to complete construction of the Tabriz heating power plant. The Degremont company concluded a contract to establish several water purification plants in Tehran, Mashhad, and several other cities. The Suferside company signed a contract to rebuild three oil drilling platforms destroyed in the war, and the Erlichide company, which this same week signed a contract with the Islamic Republic through its German branch to build telephone centers valued at 600 million francs, signed another contract to build two industrial gas factories. Other French companies also signed contracts to build cement, sugar, and paper factories, and large construction complexes.

Among the most important contracts with French companies in Tehran is one for the Renault automobile plant, on the basis of which an automobile assembly plant to build the Renault R-21 (whose production was not deemed profitable in France) will go into operation in Tehran in 1995. It is expected that assembly of this model of automobile will increase to 30,000 units per year. Renault also signed a contract with its Iranian company, Saipa, on the basis of which the assembly of the Renault R-5, which has been done in Iran for years, will increase from 5,000 to 10,000 units in the current year and then to 20,000 units next year.

Despite this, the French government has declined to sell the Islamic Republic the Airbus A-310 aircraft, which the Islamic Republic volunteered to buy. French officials said with respect to this that they do not wish to make the advanced technology of this type of aircraft available to Iran now. Likewise the Islamic Republic's request to purchase arms and military aircraft from France, the details of which have been kept secret, was not agreed to by Paris.

Despite the joy and contentment in French industry after the signing of contracts with the Islamic Republic worth tens of billions of francs (in the days before the revolution this figure was only a little more than three billion francs), government and private economic officials are expressing concern over Iran's economic and political stability. French economic newspapers have written that the political ups and downs are not yet over in Iran, and a return of the hard-liners and the reversal of all previous predictions is not unlikely. On the other hand, Iran's economic situation—apart from the oil revenue—is not at all satisfactory, and Iran's industrial expansion (which was .07 percent last year), the sharp increase in population, domestic political and social unrest, and the ignorance of most industrial managers and industrial officials, are posing numerous dangers for investment in Iran.

Likewise this week a large economic delegation led by Khamushi, head of the Islamic Republic's Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Mines, to which 20 managers of Iran's government and private institutions also belong, is going to Paris to speak with managers and owners of French industry.

It is thus expected that not only will the Islamic Republic replace the lost Iraqi market for the French economy, French industry will even make a much greater profit than before. So far France's main competitors in the Islamic Republic were Germany, Japan, England, and Italy, respectively. It is now expected, however, that France will at least surpass England and Italy in terms of exports to Iran.

***Foreign Investors Lured by Guarantees**

91AS0083E London KEYHAN in Persian 18 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] Ten years after the Islamic Republic came to power, with its primary slogans cutting dependence on foreigners and eliminating foreign companies from Iran, last week the head of the Islamic Republic's Central Bank announced that the Islamic government is willing, to assure foreign investors and persuade them to invest in Iran, to provide these companies with the necessary guarantees.

These guarantees will include the investments, raw materials, installations, and supplies that the foreign companies will bring to Iran for their industrial and production activities.

The Islamic government's new policy to bring foreign companies back to Iran is being implemented although at the beginning of its tenure the Islamic Republic regime confiscated and impounded the shares, assets, and installations belonging to hundreds of foreign production companies, and almost all of them were producing goods needed by the society with the collaboration and participation of Iranian institutions. Suspending the operation of these kinds of institutions not only severely reduced the nation's producing activities, and the Islamic Republic has not been able to

manage these institutions properly and positively, but hundreds of millions of dollars from the nation's budget were paid to these companies at The Hague for losses, especially to the American companies.

'Adeli announced this subject at the seminar for expanding economic cooperation between Iran and Turkey. He also announced the change in the Islamic government's policy with regard to transferring production units to the private sector.

Concerning this, the head of the Central Bank, 'Adeli, said:

Henceforth, the nation's private sector will have more latitude for operation, and production units will be transferred to the private sector. 'Adeli did not mention any exceptions to the transfer of production units to the private sector.

The transfer of production units to the private sector is also just the opposite of the policy that was implemented at the beginning of the Islamic Republic's tenure. In the first days of the revolution, all the large private production or commercial units were confiscated by the Islamic regime, and their owners deprived of property.

The motivation for depriving owners of private production and commercial units of their property was not merely economic. The Islamic government carried out this plan as a political-economic program, and of course its grave consequences were evident even then.

***Government To Establish Foreign Exchange Rates**

91AS0083F London KEYHAN in Persian
18 Oct 90 pp 1, 9

[Text] The policy of selling foreign exchange at different rates is being shelved, and a system of "one foreign exchange" will be created by the Islamic government. This change in foreign exchange policy, which is seen as an indication of the failure of the one-year policy of selling foreign exchange at different rates, was announced by the chief of the Central Bank.

The policy of selling foreign exchange at different rates was implemented last year as an economic initiative, and the government expected that this policy would stabilize the price of foreign exchange on the free market, but in practice this had no effect on controlling the price, and its only advantage for the Islamic government was that the illegal official sale of foreign exchange at 20 times the official price of foreign exchange was done to procure part of the budget shortfall of the Islamic Republic regime's first five-year economic budget.

Currently the various rates for foreign exchange have been set as follows by the government:

- Official foreign exchange: 70 rials per dollar
- Preferred foreign exchange: 425 rials per dollar
- Competitive foreign exchange: 800 rials per dollar
- Public foreign exchange: 1,400 rials per dollar

Dr. 'Adeli, head of the Central Bank, gave no further explanation concerning how the "one foreign exchange" system would be implemented, and he did not say which of the current foreign exchange rates is close to the future single foreign exchange price.

The method of marketing foreign exchange at the different prices was an innovation by Mohsen Nurbakhsh, minister of economic affairs and finance, who was said to be the regime's economic mastermind.

***Heavy Rainfall Reported in Quake-Stricken Areas**

91AS0083G London KEYHAN in Persian 18 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] The sudden change of weather and the severe rainfall in Gilan Province caused flooding in some parts of this quake-stricken province.

Severe rainfall and torrential rains began in the first hours of the morning on Sunday 22 Mehr (14 October) in Rasht and many urban and rural parts of Gilan, and caused flooding and rising rivers.

In the city of Rasht a severe flood covered many areas, causing great damage to the homes of the people, so that emergency units were put on alert throughout Gilan.

Snow also began to fall suddenly on Sunday in Azarbaijan and continued for more than 18 hours, and the cities of Tabriz and Ardebil were completely covered in white. Snow in the mountainous areas of this province caused the closing of the Sa'en and Shobeyli passes, and they were impassable without chains.

The ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY, which reported the unprecedented rainfall in Gilan Province, said nothing about the situation in the quake-stricken areas, but in view of the fact that no basic steps have yet been taken to rebuild the quake-stricken areas, one can imagine the circumstances of the people in these areas.

The sudden change and the drop in the temperature in Azarbaijan and Gilan occurred when the temperature in Tehran was 24 degrees centigrade, and Minab, at 37 degrees, was announced as the warmest part of the country.

***Draft To Dismiss Liberals From Positions Rejected**

91AS0083I London KEYHAN in Persian 18 Oct 90 p 2

[Text] A proposal submitted by 24 Majles deputies to prohibit appointments and to fire hojjatiyehs and liberals from the nation's key and sensitive positions has met with opposition.

The signatories to this proposal include Sheikh Sadeq Khalkhali and Hadi Khamene'i, brother of Seyyed Khamene'i, and if their proposal had been enacted, it would have been possible to single out a number of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's ministers, and some could have been fired as hojjatiyehs and liberals.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani sent his parliamentary aide to the Majles to prevent passage of this bill. Mohajerani, Hashemi-Rafsanjani's parliamentary aide, did not oppose the principle of the idea of firing hojjatiyehs and liberals, but he told the Majles deputies: If you want to pass this bill, you must give a clear description of a liberal, and then vote on that so you won't be effectively setting up conditions for mistakes and misunderstandings. With this reasoning, he kept a group of Majles deputies from agreeing with the proposal and it was not approved.

***Publication of New Paper Reported**

91AS0083J London KEYHAN in Persian 18 Oct 90 p 2

[Text] The Tehran Combatant Clergy Association (the breakaway group) [Majma'-e Rowhaniyun-e Mobarez-e Tehran], formed from Hezbollahis supporting the Mohtashemi-Karrubi group, this week began publishing a new newspaper. This newspaper is called SALAM, and an advertisement for its publication was printed in ABRAR (10 October).

In the Tehran Combatant Clergy Association (the breakaway group) advertisement concerning the publication of the newspaper SALAM, it was said that this newspaper will mirror the clear thoughts of His Holiness Imam Khomeini, it will define the Islam of Mohammad and it will reveal the despicable face of Americanized Islam, "to find the clear path of the imam in the struggle with infidelity, imperialism, rigidity, and backwardness." The manager and concession owner of the newspaper SALAM is Seyyed Mohammad Musavi-Kho'iniha, one of the planners of the occupation of the American Embassy and making hostages of the American Embassy staff. He is now chief of the regime's Strategic Research Institute.

Currently 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi also publishes the weekly BAYAN in Tehran, and with the publication of SALAM this group now has two newspapers.

The daily newspaper KEYHAN, which for some time has reflected the views of this group, has recently distanced itself from it.

We note that the Tehran Combatant Clergy Association (the breakaway group) is completely different from the Tehran Combatant Clergy Association (the original group) [Majma'-e Rowhaniyat-e Mobarez-e Tehran], and they are in direct opposition to one another. The Tehran Combatant Clergy Association (the original group) is under the influence of Ayatollah Mehdi Kani, and the Tehran Combatant Clergy Association (the breakaway group) is made up of people like Mohtashemi, Kho'iniha, and Karrubi.

***Paper on Musavi-Ardabili's Hospitalization**

91AS0083L London KEYHAN in Persian 18 Oct 90 p 2

[Text] Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, whose competence to register as a candidate for membership in the Assembly of Experts was rejected by the Council of Guardians, was

hospitalized one day before the elections at Ayatollah Golpaygani Hospital in Qom because of heart trouble, high blood pressure, and general weakness. Barring Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili from the elections for the Assembly of Experts is seen as a severe blow to the morale and prestige of one who calls himself an "ayatollah".

On Thursday the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY reported that Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i and 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani each sent a representative to Qom to visit and attend to Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili.

Majles speaker Sheikh Mehdi Karrubi is also hospitalized with a broken ankle, and has no thought of leaving.

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili's lack of moral competence played a basic role in the rejection of his application to register for the Assembly of Experts. Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili is accused of abuses and theft when he was chief of the Supreme Court and as chief of the judiciary. He had very close relations with the head of the Nabovat Foundation, who was sentenced to death twice for corruption on the earth, and then not executed, and when called by him he would do whatever was asked.

To prevent further embarrassment, Ardabili was dismissed from his position for financial corruption, and was replaced by Sheikh Mohammad Yazdi.

According to someone familiar with conditions in Qom, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili pays a monthly stipend to a group of seminary students in Qom with the huge sums of money he pocketed as chief of the judiciary, and keeps them around him.

Nepal & Bhutan

Public Sector Joins in Pro-Democracy Protest

BK3110170590 Hong Kong AFP in English
1650 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 31 (AFP)—Tens of thousands of employees of state-run corporations staged a silent protest march in the Nepalese capital on Wednesday, carrying placards and banners demanding the implementation of a democratic political system.

They denounced a draft constitution prepared by royal palace secretaries as anti-democratic and held banners reading, "Down with palace conspiracy" and "We condemn palace intervention in our constitution."

The protestors demanded that the interim government implement a democratic constitution guaranteeing fundamental rights, that sovereignty of the king be transferred to the people, a constitutional monarchy and a multiparty parliamentary system.

In related news, six national pro-leftist students' unions issued a joint statement strongly denouncing the palace constitution.

The statement alleged that reactionary elements wanted to introduce a fascist constitution preserving the partyless panchayat system.

Pakistan

Sharif Elected Leader of IDA Party

BK0111153790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] At its meeting in Islamabad this evening, the Islamic Democratic Alliance [IDA] parliamentary party in the National Assembly unanimously elected Nawaz Sharif as its leader. Nawaz Sharif's name was proposed by the caretaker prime minister, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi; and Pakistan Muslim League President Mohammad Khan Junejo. The leaders of component parties of the IDA, including the former Combined Opposition Parties, and some newly elected members from the tribal areas and from the minority community were present at the meeting. The leaders present at the meeting included Qazi Hussain Ahmed, Maulana Samiul Haq, Syed Fakhr Imam, Murtaza Poya, Khan Abdul Wali Khan, Imran Farooq, Nawab Mohammad Akbar Khan Bugti, and Maulana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi, Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad, and North-West Frontier Province Chief Minister Mir Afzal Khan.

Earlier, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, Mohammad Khan Junejo, Nawab Mohammad Akbar Khan Bugti, and Dr. Imran Farooq called on Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad.

Promises Fair Treatment

BK0211080090 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
2 Nov 90 pp 1, 9

[Text] Islamabad, Nov. 1—Nawaz Sharif, the IDA [Islamic Democratic Alliance] nominee for the PM [Prime Minister] slot, said here today the IDA government would give fair treatment to its opponents, including PPP [Pakistan People's Party] Co-Chairperson Ms. Benazir Bhutto.

Talking to waiting newsmen after having been formally nominated as parliamentary leader of the IDA, he dispelled the impression that his government on assuming power would resort to "political victimisation". He said: "We do not believe in victimisation on political grounds and we will never resort to it."

Mr. Nawaz claimed a fair treatment had already been given to dismissed Premier Bhutto and her partymen and this principle would not be abandoned by his government.

To a question about the possibility of withdrawing cases against Ms. Benazir Bhutto and former PPP ministers, Nawaz Sharif said, "We have no control over cases which are already pending for adjudication with the courts". He however, assured that his government would not "initiate" new cases against PPP leaders.

He said special tribunals hearing cases relating to "misuse of power" and "corruption" by the PPP leaders during their 20 months rule "are working under the law and I cannot stop them from administering justice."

The IDA leader said he would give foremost importance for the uplift of the "down-trodden". He said the IDA government would introduce "reforms" in all walks of life.

Answering a question about any reaction from Sindhis on his election to the office of the Prime Minister, the IDA chief said, there would be no reaction from any quarter. "The matter has been decided by the IDA parliamentary party comprising members from all the provinces".

Caretaker Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi talking to pressmen after the meeting of the IDA parliamentary party, said that he had never been a "job-hunter".

To a question Mr. Jatoi foresees no reason for "agitation" by Sindhis against Nawaz Sharif, who hailed from Punjab.

He, however, categorically said that he would side with "Pakistan" in case a movement is launched in Sindh. He said efforts are under way to have a Speaker of the National Assembly from Sindh. He, however, made it clear that no decision to this effect has yet been taken by the IDA.

Former Prime Minister and President PML [Pakistan Muslim League] Mohammad Khan Junejo in response denied the speculation that he had accepted the speakership of the newly elected National Assembly.

He said, "I would remain an MNA [Member of National Assembly] and President PML and would not accept any position in the IDA government".

About the prospects of agitation by Sindhis against Mian Nawaz Sharif's election to the premiership, the PML chief said: "It is up to the leader of the House to look after interests of all the federating units."

Former Chief Minister Balochistan and chief of the JWP [Jamhoori Watan Party] Nawab Akbar Bugti, reiterated to "agitate" against all those who would deny rights of the people of Balochistan. "I am thankful to Punjab for having sided with us during Benazir's government".

Answering a question, Bugti claimed that IDA members would support his candidature for the chief ministership of the province. This, he said, had been assured by IDA chief.

He, however, vowed to fight against people not recognising legitimate rights of the Baloch.

Court Frees Zardari To Sit in Parliament

BK0111160690 Hong Kong AFP in English
1448 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] Karachi, Nov 1 (AFP)—Asif Ali Zardari, the jailed husband of ousted Pakistani Premier Benazir

Bhutto, must be released from his cell to sit in Parliament, a special court ruled Thursday.

The court ordered prison authorities to make special arrangements to allow Mr. Zardari, who was elected to Parliament last week from a slum district of Karachi, to attend the opening session Saturday of the new National Assembly.

Mr. Zardari, a businessman making his political debut, was arrested October 10 and charged in connection with a kidnapping. He has pleaded not guilty but has so far been denied bail.

Official Says Cash Available for Debt Payment

BK0111133590 Karachi DAWN in English
1 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] Karachi, Oct 31—The State Bank of Pakistan has categorically denied a report, appearing in an English daily on Wednesday saying that no ready cash is available for meeting the repayment schedule of a defence related American debt or other payments.

Clarifying the factual position, a spokesman for the Bank said that sufficient foreign exchange cash resources were available for meeting the debt payment.

Instructions have already been given by the Bank to its agents in New York for making payment of due amounts on Nov 1.

The spokesman further denied the allegation that release of balance amount against a commercial loan contracted from a London-based consortium of banks has become doubtful.

The amount of loan is being released according to the agreed schedule, the spokesman added.

MINISTRY: In Islamabad, a spokesman for Finance Ministry has described as "unfounded and pernicious" a news item reported in a section of the press that Faisal Islami Bank has refused to disburse to the Government a loan of 100 million dollars and that the Government of Pakistan has decided to withhold payments of debt servicing due on Nov 1.

According to a Press note issued on Wednesday, the spokesman said the factual position was that Faisal Islami Bank had not only signed the loan agreement for US dollars 100 million but had in fact credited the amount to the account of the State Bank of Pakistan.

As already clarified by the Finance Minister, the Government of Pakistan has no intention to default on its debt obligations, the Press note added.

Ejazul Haq Wants PPP Included in Government

BK0111141890 Karachi DAWN in English
31 Oct 90 p 3

[By Shaheen Sehba]

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 30—A newcomer to the country's parliamentary scene, PML's [Pakistan Muslim League] MNA [Member of National Assembly]-elect Ejazul Haq, says no one can stop Mr. Nawaz Sharif from becoming the new Prime Minister, but he wants Mr. Sharif "to form a coalition with PPP [Pakistan People's Party] both at the Centre and in Sindh, even with Benazir Bhutto as its leader". "Let us get rid of the politics of vengeance and politics of hatred once for all", Ejaz said in an interview with DAWN at the Zia Foundation Headquarters in Rawalpindi, late on Monday night.

"I am not a candidate for PM [Prime Minister], even if offered, but I will be in the run in the next election", he said when asked about speculations that he too was aspiring for the top slot.

Some of the main points made by Mr. Ejazul Haq:

—Benazir is already through. She would be disqualified, as there is enough evidence against her, although personally I want that she should not be.

—If the mandate in the elections had again been split, a presidential system would have been imposed.

—If we have a Punjabi PM and IDA [Islamic Democratic Alliance] forms a government with MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] in Sindh, the rural Sindh would be totally isolated and polarisation on urban-rural basis would be complete.

—The Shariat [Islamic Law] Bill, already adopted by the Senate, would now have a smooth passage in the new NA [National Assembly].

—I am not dependent on Mian Nawaz Sharif and I still have some tensions with him, but in a day or two the situation will be clear.

—I have a very strong base of my own, the Zia legacy, and I will use it again in the next election.

On Afghanistan, Ejazul Haq said within three to four months, "Kabul would be definitely conquered".

Is the ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence] back on the job? he was asked. "There would be no hindrance now as it was during the PPP rule that everything was cut off".

Ejaz candidly admitted that he and the IDA "exploited the US aid cut-off to their advantage by involving the PPP. "In politics we need something to play with. The people are still backward and get exploited Politics, I am sorry to say, is the name of exploitation. The PPP lost between 20 to 25 percent of its support in the last days of its campaign because of the aid factor".

To a question about accountability of both sides, Ejazul Haq said he still wanted that accountability should not be one-sided. Stressing that the new PM should not be given a free hand to loot and plunder, Ejaz said: "I want accountability of Benazir because the man who is going to follow her will have a massive mandate and he should

know that he could also face accountability later. He should not be given a blank cheque".

Officials Criticize India Over Mosque Desecration

Prime Minister

BK0211094890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has expressed deep distress and anguish over the desecration of Babri mosque [a shrine in dispute between Hindus and Muslims] in Ayodhya. In a statement in Islamabad last night, he said the people of Pakistan condemn the protest movement launched by the extremist Hindus all over India to construct a temple at the site of the Babri Mosque. He said it is the responsibility of the Indian Government to restore the sanctity of the mosque and take effective steps to protect it. The prime minister said India, which claims to be a secular state, should take steps to prevent sectarian violence and protect the minority Muslims.

Foreign Minister

BK0111160590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] Pakistan has expressed profound anguish and indignation at the desecration of Babri Mosque in India. In a statement today, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said the Pakistani people express their abhorrence and condemnation at the countrywide agitation launched by India's anti-Muslim extremist elements to demolish the mosque and to construct a Hindu temple at its place. The foreign minister said these regrettable incidents have badly hurt the feelings of Muslims around the world. This is regrettable that India's law enforcement agencies could not prevent an attack on the Babri Mosque nor were they able to control incidents of violence against Muslims in various parts of the country. He added that it is the duty of the Indian Government to restore the sanctity of Babri Mosque and take effective steps to protect it. He called upon the Indian Government to perform its duty and prevent recurrence of incidents of communal violence and protect its Muslim minority.

President Hailed for Fair, Free Elections

BK0211101490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] In a resolution, the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad (IDA) parliamentary party congratulated President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and the Election Commission for holding fair, free, and impartial elections.

The meeting also congratulated Nazaf Sharif for being unanimously nominated as the IDA parliamentary party leader and assured him of full cooperation from the members.

Editorial Ponders Future of Relations With U.S.

BK0211062590 Lahore THE NATION in English
2 Nov 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Pak-US Ties"]

[Text] Now that the elections are over and certified as fair by most international observers, Washington should apparently have no problem evolving a *modus vivendi* with the new government in Islamabad. Rhetoric apart, hardly any differences exist in the foreign policy perceptions of the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] and the IDA [Islamic Democratic Alliance] and there is no way the State Department will have to deal with 'unknown' and 'unpredictable' entities. Following the stoppage of US aid to Pakistan an element of uncertainty has cast its shadows on relations between the two countries and according to observers Pak-US ties are not only 'on downturn' but also 'likely to cool even further'. It is time that the Americans place their cards on the table and the two sides get down to the brass tacks of restoring normalcy. Long before the US had sudden qualms of conscience about the future of democracy in Pakistan, the nuclear issue was known to be the main source of discord and Washington had, time and again, tried to browbeat Islamabad into acquiescence. The American line on regional balance of power in South Asia has also been at variance with Islamabad's perception of national interest and security concerns. However, no Pakistani government, past or present, could accept the US diktat either on the nuclear issue or relations with India.

Pak-US ties, notwithstanding the fiction of friendship and identity of interests, have basically been an unequal relationship and one who pays the piper will call the tune. But there is a limit to which a self-respecting nation can go in making compromises or agree to checks on its freedom of action in foreign relations. The new government in Islamabad should make all the effort that is required to get the US aid restored on honourable terms as it is vital for saving the country's economy from collapse. Nonetheless, the distant godfather has to be reminded that there are issues which, regardless of who is in government, are not negotiable, and Pakistan will neither compromise on its nuclear programme, nor abandon the Kashmiri freedom-fighters. Pakistan can neither afford nor has the desire to go to war with India, but there is a world of difference between 'peaceful-coexistence on equal terms' and accepting 'the hegemony of a big neighbour'. We may or may not like it but the bitter reality is that we have been eternal beggars and, unless we diversify our sources of support and overcome exclusive dependence on a single benefactor, we can't be choosers.

Sri Lanka

Communique Lists Northern Operations Against LTTE

BK0111113590 Colombo International Service
in English 1045 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] The security forces have further consolidated their positions in Jaffna Peninsula during the last 24

hours ending at 1200 yesterday. The forces conducting clearing operations in the area south of Kadduwan killed seven LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists and recovered their weapons. Terrorists' sniper fire killed one soldier in the Veeramankaman area. A Defense Ministry communique says during search operations in the Manmunai area in the Batticaloa District two soldiers died and three were injured when the terrorists activated a landmine in this incident. Three civilians who were also injured were evacuated to Colombo. Six terrorists were killed in this encounter.

The security forces fired upon a group of LTTE terrorists moving in a tractor toward Mankulam in the Vavuniya District. Four terrorists were killed in this encounter. It is reported that many others were seriously wounded.

According to the communique, the police conducted a search operation in the Eluwankulam area in the Puttalam District. Two Sterling machine guns, several shotguns, grenades, and a large quantity of ammunition were recovered.

Thousands of Muslims, who have been chased out of the Mannar District by the LTTE terrorists having looted their houses, are now moving into Puttalam, Anuradhapura, and Vavuniya Districts. It is reported that nearly 15,000 refugees are now in the refugee camps in the Kalpitiya area alone. The government agent of Puttalam and the assistant government agent of Kalpitiya are making arrangements to provide food and accommodation to these refugees. The commissioner general of essential services has dispatched emergency food and medical supplies to Puttalam. Several nongovernmental organizations have already moved into this district with relief supplies.

LTTE Claims Army Camp Stormed, 10 Killed

*BK0211063490 Hong Kong AFP in English
0603 GMT 2 Nov 90*

[Text] Colombo, Nov 2 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's most powerful rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has said its commandos stormed an army camp in northern Sri Lanka, killed 10 soldiers and returned to base with three losses.

In a statement received here late Thursday from the group's London office, the LTTE said the sudden attack was launched early Thursday on the army camp in Manaluru area in Mullaitivu district.

"This camp served the Sri Lankan Government to protect the Sinhalese settlement in the area," the LTTE said, adding 10 soldiers and three guerrillas including a top rebel military leader, Major Shankar, were killed in the fighting.

Manaluru is the Tamil name for the controversial Weli Oya area where Tamil groups claim Colombo set up several colonies for majority Sinhalese villagers under a colonisation scheme in 1984.

The Weli Oya area runs through the eastern Trincomalee district to the Mullaitivu border. Both Trincomalee and Mullaitivu form part of the island's predominantly Tamil northeast.

The guerrillas operating from bases located in thick jungles in Mullaitivu and Trincomalee districts have time and again raided Sinhalese villages in Weli Oya which Tamils claim is part of the traditional Tamil land in the northeast.

"After the successful raid, the LTTE commandos demolished the army camp by explosives and returned to their base," the guerrillas said.

The rest of the troops in the camp fled to adjoining jungles, the statement said, adding LTTE fighters seized several weapons including Chinese mortars, AK-47 automatic rifles and light machine guns.

Military officials here denied the attack but said the rebels were probably referring to an attack early Thursday on a Sinhalese village in Weli Oya in which 10 civilians, six army soldiers and two tigers were killed.

Six other troops were injured when the rebels stormed the army guard point at Helambagaswewa village in Weli Oya near Trincomalee district.

The LTTE also said its cadres Thursday killed three Sinhalese homeguards during a fierce gun battle in Aluth Oya in Trincomalee district.

"In the eastern province the Sri Lankan government has created para-military forces called homeguards and allowed them to function independently," the statement said, adding the homeguards had been terrorising the Tamils.

Colombo provided weapons and trained hundreds of Sinhalese and Moslem villagers as homeguards after increased rebel attacks on remote areas in the eastern province since June 11 when the tigers renewed their secessionist war.

But the military spokesman said those killed at Aluth Oya were three Sinhalese civilians. The LTTE said Colombo has been "portraying the homeguards slain by the LTTE as innocent Sinhalese civilians."

In operations in eastern Batticaloa, security forces shot dead a LTTE guerrilla in Meenachchiwatte and seized six barrels of petrol hidden inside a nearby cellar, the spokesman said.

More than 4,500 people including hundreds of non-combatants are reported to have died in fighting between government troops and the LTTE since June.

Wijeratne Discusses Mannar Anti-LTTE Operations

*BK0211121290 Colombo International Service
in English 1045 GMT 2 Nov 90*

[Text] The Sri Lankan forces landed in the Mannar Island yesterday. Air, sea, and land operations are now

being conducted to clear the island of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists. This was stated by Minister of Plantation Industries and State Minister for Defense Ranjan Wijeratne yesterday. He was addressing a news conference at the Cabinet office in Colombo to brief the newsmen on the present situation in the war-stricken areas in the country.

The minister said that he had come to understand that 2,000 Muslim men, women, and children were lined up by the terrorists and sent today to Vavuniya by buses. This means that the terrorists had cleared Jaffna of Muslims. Mr. Wijeratne said, as soon as the Mannar Island was cleared of terrorists and made secure, the Muslims will be transferred back to their homes. However, at present, they are refugees in Anuradhapura, Kalpitiya, and Puttalam. They had become refugees as a result of the terrorist intimidation and are now being looked after by the government. The number of Muslim refugees totals to about 25,000. The forces did not move to the Mannar Island quickly because the Muslim citizens, too, would have been killed. As such, they had to buy time for the Muslims to move out. Now that a vast majority has moved out, the forces have gone to the Mannar Island and operations have been started. The Muslims had also made a request not to start any operations until they had left the area.

Mr. Wijeratne referred to an incident which occurred in the early hours of yesterday at Weli Oya. Here, the terrorists had come to a village called Halabedawa and killed 10 civilians and five soldiers. The terrorists had been attacked and reinforcements rushed to deal with the situation.

Referring to his visit to Silavatturai last Saturday, Mr. Wijeratne said that during the discussion he had with the refugees who had come there from Mannar, it was made known that the terrorists had relieved them of their gold jewelry and other valuable personal belongings and were asked to quit the Mannar Island. Responding to a question why the terrorists were doing this type of harassment, Mr. Wijeratne said that when the 2,000 Muslims were lined up, they were told by the terrorists that they wanted to kill them, but were not doing so. But, the minister said that the refugees whom he had met had told him that they had been sent away from the Mannar Island because some of the Muslim leaders wanted a separate Muslim council and also [word indistinct] on Mannar to that council in the Eastern Province. Those refugees had also requested the minister to tell those leaders not to involve them in the Muslim council they propose, as they wish to live peacefully in that part of the country. Mr. Wijeratne said that he had asked them to write to the president on these lines because the president would be able to tell the Muslim leaders, who wanted a Muslim council, that they were placing the other Muslims of this country in difficulty.

Responding to another question, Mr. Wijeratne said that the Sri Lanka Navy assisted the Muslims of the Mannar Island to move out before the operations started yesterday.

Replying to a question about minister's meeting with Indian High Commissioner, Mr. Wijeratne pointed out that his discussions with the high commissioner were based on improving bilateral trade. This was because trade could develop good relations and friendship.